FBIS
DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 December 1980

American Hostages

According to Tehran radio, Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i met with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni and discussed the fate of the U.S. hostages. Raja'i told PARS after the meeting that Khomeyni approved a reply "acceptable to all the officials and the people of Iran" to be sent to the United States in order to end the "procrastination and combersomeness" of the exchanges. The United States now has only "to provide certain financial guarantees that we have demanded," the prime minister added, and then at "any time or on any day" the United States can "take away the spies."

Earlier, Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i told a Tehran radio correspondent that "the hostage issue is almost at its final stage." If Khomeyni approves the report on the hostage issue, the prime minister continued, then Iran will submit its "final reply" to the United States and "it will be up to the U.S. Administration to adopt measures on taking these 52 people." Raja'i's comments followed a meeting of the government council, the radio reported, which discussed the hostage issue and monetary matters.

At a press conference in Tehran, President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr said that the prolongation of the hostage issue has been caused by "those who hold the real power in the United States" but that if they accept the Majlis conditions "clearly and unambiguously, the issue will be resolved forthwith." According to Tehran radio, Bani-Sadr stressed that the key issue is the unfreezing of Iranian assets held in the United States and not the late shah's wealth. Referring to the Majlis condition that the "Americans return our money to us," the president said the solution "is apparently easy." However, the Iranian people will not accept a solution that "would tamper with even a penny of their money," he added. Bani-Sadr's emphasis on the Iranian assets follows earlier reports of numerous high-level meetings among Iranian officials about various monetary problems and the generally worsening economic situation.

Iran Domestic Affairs

Bani-Sadr Comment--President Bani-Sadr told a press conference reported by Tehran radio that his main rivals are "counterrevolutionaries" who are plotting against the revolution "in collusion with a foreign power." Not only do we have a war that has been foisted on us by them, Bani-Sadr asserted, but "we also have a civil war, an economic blockade and dozens of plots and assassination plans."

Esfahan Imam Protest--According to Tehran radio, the Friday imam of Esfahan, Ayatollah Jalaleddin Taheri, quit his post and left the city in protest against "fifth columnists" in the country who are undermining Islam and deprecating Ayatollah Khomeyni. Taheri charged in a statement that the local Voice and Vision (Iran's radio and television network) station broadcast "insults and rudeness" toward Khomeyni while other plotters defaced pictures of Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri.

Iran Foreign Affairs

In an interview with Swiss and Austrian radio correspondents reported by Tehran radio, Prime Minister Raja'i said Iran's relations with the Soviet Union should not go so far that they harm Iran's independence. As to renewed relations with Europe, especially West Germany, the prime minister declared that some people "are trying to represent Europe as a world separate from the East and the West," but because of Europe's support for the U.S. economic blockade, "we regret" Iran cannot regard Europe as being independent of the United States.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

President Beni-Sadr backed away from earlier comments about an imminent Iranian Army offensive against the Iraqis when asked about the military situation at a Tehran press conference as reported by Tehran radio. Bani-Sadr said the Iranian forces have halted the Iraqi advance and are now taking "the next step, namely, to weaken and wear down the enemy." According to another radio report, the president was no more expansive on the fighting following a meeting with Ayatollah Khomeyni, saying only that "in general," the situation "is good on all the battlefronts." At the same press conference the acting chief of the joint staff, Brig Gen Valiollah Fallahi, said that the Iranian air defense "could be a reason" for the "noticable" reduction in Iraqi air attacks in recent weeks. He added that "as a rule" seldom more than half of the attacking planes are able to return to Iraq. Fallahi also asserted that Iranian air, naval and ground forces are continuing offensive operations against the Iraqis and are going to "tip the balance in their favor."

Iranian and Iraqi forces clashed around Susangerd, Tehran radio reported, with both sides suffering losses. Near Ahvaz, Iranian artillery reportedly halted an Iraqi armor column that attempted to cross the Karkheh Kur River. An Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communique, carried by Baghdad Radio, claimed the Iranians lost 70 killed in recent fighting, mainly in the Bahmanshir canal area of Abadan. Tehran radio's Arabic service, citing the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI reported that the export of Iraqi crude oil from the Syrian port of Baniyas stopped following Iranian air raids on oil installations in Kirkuk.

Kurdish Question

In an interview with LE MONDE correspondent Eric Rouleau published on 12 December, Kordestan Democratic Party (KDP) Secretary General 'Abdol Rahman Qasemlu said that although Iranian Kurds are willing to negotiate with the government they will never lay down their arms. Quasemlu admitted, however, that seven members of the KDP Central Committee have already resigned because they oppose armed struggle. The KDP leader described the Iranian Government as a regime of mullahs that has "confiscated" the revolution "for its benefit," and he said that following "assaults launched by the forces of order" the KDP "moved onto the offensive 1 month ago." Qasemlu denied charges by Iraqi Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani that a guerrilla war by Iranian Kurds would lead to a military regime in Tehran, saying it is not self-evident that the army will take power and adding that the most influential political force "on a national scale" in Iran is the Mojahedin-e Khalq. Asked about KDP's relations with Iraq, Qasemlu said "we support any Kurdish movement outside Iran that asks for our support; Baghdad knows that quite well." Iraq, he said, is "just as dependent on us as we are on it." The KDP leader did not deny receiving arms from Iraq but said the KDP tries to diversify sources of supply. Although the KDP has condemned Iraq for "having sparked off the hostilities" in the current war, Qasemlu said the KDP holds Iran "responsible" for the war as a result of its "repeated provocations" against Iraq.

Afghanistan

Afghan leader Babrak Karmal, interviewed by Kabul radio, reiterated the DRA's support for the Soviet and Indian call for a "political solution" of the problems of the region. Karmal again called for "direct talks, without any type of interference from abroad" and expressed hope that the leaders of Iran and Pakistan will respond "positively" to proposals for a political solution, adding "we are ready to meet them at any time and place convenient for both sides and acceptable to us."

Syrian-Libyan Relations

Following a report by Tripoli radio's Voice of the Arab Homeland that unity talks between Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad began on 15 December, Damascus radio revealed that the talks centered on the "basic and general principles of unity" between the two countries based on a plan submitted by the Syrian side. The radio said that after the meeting Hafiz al-Asad restated Syria's view that unity is the "best weapon to confront the imperialist moves in the area." The radio also said that in a statement to Syrian television, Al-Qadhdhafi asserted that "the political and technical aspects" of unity have been resolved but the "executive administrative procedures" remain to be discussed in further talks on 16 December.

Israel

Tel Aviv IDF radio reported that Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abu-Hatzeha told the Knesset House Committee he agrees to have his immunity removed in order to prove his innocence of corruption charges in court. Abu-Hatzera claimed he is a victim of libel intended to ruin his political career.

OPEC Conference

AFP reported from Bali that the OPEC countries have decided to set three new prices: $32 a barrel for Saudi Arabian light crude; $36 for Gulf countries, including Kuwait, Qatar and Iraq; and $41 for African producers such as Algeria and Libya. AFP earlier reported that Venezuela's Oil Minister Humberto Calderon Berti revealed that the conference agenda would include proposals to raise oil prices but would not make any "formal" effort to end the Iran-Iraq war or deal with the question of Iran's captured oil minister, Mohammad Javad Tonguyan.

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KARMAL GREETINGS TO BREZHNEV ON RETURN FROM INDIA

LD141622 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 14 Dec 80

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the DRA Revolution Council and prime minister has sent the following telegram of gratitude to Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet in reply to his telegram to Karmal while his plane was overflying Afghan airspace on his return home:

Comrade Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the Kremlin, Moscow:

I have the pleasure to express my comradely and sincere gratitude on behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Government and my own behalf at the fraternal and warm message that you, dear comrade, communicated at the time of your return to your country through DRA airspace.

We regard your successful visit to India an important and beneficial step, and we support sincerely the constructive proposals from you, dear brother, for the prosperity and comfort of the toiling people of the world as well as for the consolidation of peace in the region of Asia and throughout the world.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express my fraternal and comradely best wishes for the further progress of the friendly country, the USSR, under the leadership of the Soviet Leninist Communist Party, and for your good health, dear comrade.

[Signed] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the DRA Revolution Council and prime minister.

KARMAL INTERVIEW ON BREZHNEV VISIT TO INDIA

LD152218 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Dec 80

["Interview" of Prime Minister Babrak Karmal with "BAKHTAR agency and DRA radio and television representatives" on 15 December in Kabul--recorded; sole question read by unidentified announcer]

[Text] [Question] Esteemed Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the DRA Revolution Council and prime minister: Allow me to ask you whether the visit to India by esteemed Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, ended very successfully. What are your views in this regard?

[Answer] Very well. During a few days the whole world, with broad and deep attention, followed the visit of Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, to the friendly country, the Republic of India.

The visit of Comrade Leonid I. Brezhnev to Delhi, his talks with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and other Indian leaders, his discussions with the representatives of social organizations and his speeches and statements to these representatives, were received with much interest all over the world, and are another manifestation of the continuous and resolute attention and interest of the CPSU and the Soviet Government in the (?further) consolidation of peace and international security.

The people of Afghanistan followed with great interest the progress of the visit of Comrade L.I. Brezhnev and his talks in Delhi. We know Comrade Brezhnev as the leader of the great and friendly people of the USSR and as a prominent international personality, whose indefatigable, continuous and relentless efforts toward the consolidation of peace and the strengthening of detente and disarmament, have won him the love and respect of the broad masses of the people all over the world.

We in Afghanistan highly appraise the peaceful efforts of Mrs Indira Gandhi and other Indian leaders. The subcontinent of Asia, that is the great ancient India, under their leadership, by defending the cause of peace and strengthening detente and the struggle against every type of imperialist and hegemonist dictatorial policy and for a just system of international relations, plays a prominent role in the nonaligned movement.

The importance of Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's visit to India and his talks with Mrs Gandhi and other Indian leaders, [words indistinct] the results of the visit and the signing of documents during its course are considered a significant and new (?step) in the development of friendly relations between the USSR and India and at the same time bear a permanent importance for the whole of Asia and the destiny of peace and detente all over the world.

The joint communique of the USSR and the Republic of India, which was signed at the end of the visit of Comrade Brezhnev in Delhi, is a broad, specific and realistic program of struggle [passage indistinct]. For this reason Afghanistan, being located in southwest Asia, welcomes in particular the call of the leaders of the USSR and India concerning the political solution of the problems in this region on the basis of complete respect for the independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity and nonaligned status of the countries of the region.

We are deeply convinced that only a political solution by means of direct talks, without any type of interference from abroad, will be able to guarantee the real, long-lasting, stable and just solution of the issues of southwest Asia, including the situations which have been created around Afghanistan as a result of the intrigues of imperialist and hegemonist circles.

On my own behalf, I would like to state that our country, like most nonaligned countries, is desirous of peace and stability as conditions for implementing the tasks concerning the raising of the standard of living of our people, and is ready to fulfill its share toward improving the international situation, including in our region.

The DRA proposals of 14 May 1979 are directed toward the attainment of this goal. In our view these proposals are the objective, realistic and special program for the political solution and the normalization of relations with Iran and Pakistan. Our readiness for the political settlement of the issues has been reiterated and reconfirmed once again in the DRA and USSR statement dated 16 October which was signed as a result of my visit to the USSR and talks with Comrade Leonid Brezhnev and other USSR leaders. We pointed out at that time that the political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan will have positive effects on the situation in this region and will help to improve the world's political atmosphere.

Further postponement of the political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan will possibly cause greater tension and complications and will bring additional (?destruction) and unnecessary bloodshed.

The continuation of tension in the relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan and between Afghanistan and Iran, is not in the interest of our peoples, but it is a tool in the hand of the sinister forces of imperialism and hegemonism.

We sincerely hope that the leaders of Iran and Pakistan will respond positively to the appeal of the leaders of the USSR and the Republic of India and our proposals concerning a political solution, and will display restraint, realism and clear-cut constructive approach for the sake of relaxation of tension and the creation of conditions and initiatives for truly stable peace in our region.

On our part, we are ready to meet them at any time and place convenient for both sides and acceptable to us. Insofar as it depends on Afghanistan, we make every endeavor in our country to make the daily life of people peaceful and normal as soon as possible, and it is becoming normal and peaceful.

The efforts of the PDPA, the Revolution Council and the DRA Government have gained the support of the broadest masses of the people of Afghanistan and of the country's tribes, clans, and nationalities.

This path is irreversible. Our enemies should long ago have realized this fact and drawn the necessary (?conclusion) from it.

While enjoying the great support and massive aid of the friendly USSR and the assistance of the nonaligned countries and all progressive forces of the world; we are making efforts to implement our noble tasks and attain the noble aspirations of our revolution and we are contributing our share toward peace and social progress on our planet.

BARIALAY HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN BUDAPEST

LD121048 Budapest MTI in English 0626 GMT 12 Dec 80

[Text] Budapest, 11 Dec (MTI)--The delegation of the Afghan People's Democratic Party headed by Mahmud Barialay, member of the party's Central Committee and the Revolution Council, met Hungarian and foreign newsmen in Budapest on Thursday. Rezso Banyasz, head of the press department of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry, welcomed the visiting delegation, which has been invited by the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party Central Committee, and Jailani Bakhtari, ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to Hungary, at the press conference.

Mahmud Barialay thanked the socialist countries, especially the Soviet Union, for their internationalist support and for solidarity extended by the world's progressive and democratic forces. He emphasized that this support is giving great strength to the Afghan people in safeguarding and further developing their revolutionary achievements and in their struggle to overcome counter-revolutionary groups backed by international imperialism and reactionaries.

The leader of the Afghan delegation went on to state: The most important task of the Afghan People's Democratic Party at the moment is to ensure conditions for the people's peaceful construction work. The order of law is operating in the country and the democratic unity of the party has been restored.

(?The fact) that success has been attained in shattering counter-revolutionary gangs and in frustrating their machinations is [word indistinct], emphasized Mahmud Barialay, so that the party far-reachingly enjoys the support of the people and social forces.

The country's leadership, however, is aware that it must work under continued difficult circumstances. American imperialism, Chinese hegemonists and the reactionary forces of the region (?and) all enemies of the Afghan revolution--have not yet given up their hostile activities organized from beyond the country's borders, nor have they given up hostile propaganda. Thanks to effective information work among the masses, the slanders of those quarters are exercising no impact.

The country's people and the progressive public of the world know that the Soviet Union fulfilled its internationalist duty when, under the treaty between the two countries and at the request of the Afghan revolutionary forces, it came to the help of the country. The defence of the revolutionary achievements and the struggle against counter-revolutionary elements are being tackled by the Afghan Armed Forces. The people of Afghanistan will never forget that, thanks to the fraternal help of the Soviet Union, Afghanistan did not become the Chile of Asia despite the menacing threat from the international reaction.

The leader of the Afghan delegation told the newsmen that the party and government in his country are struggling for social progress. He went on to [word indistinct] his country derives great strength from [word indistinct] it continues to enjoy the support of the socialist countries and the world's progressive and democratic forces.

KESHTMAND, PARTY DELEGATION DEPART FOR CUBA

LD141922 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 0930 GMT 14 Dec 80

[Text] Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, deputy chairman of the Revolution Council and deputy prime minister, left for Cuba this afternoon heading a party delegation to participate in the Second Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] at the invitation of the PCC.

Those who bid him farewell at Kabul International Airport included Dr Saleh Mohammad Ziray and Nur Ahmad Nur, members of the Politburo, secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee and members of the Revolution Council Presidium; Dr Anahita Ratebzad, member of the PDPA Central Committee, president of the Democratic Women's Organization of Afghanistan, and chairman of the Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization of the DRA; Gen Abdul Qader, member of the Central Committee in charge of the Department of Justice and Defense of the Central Committee and member of the Revolution Council Presidium; Aslam Watanjar, member of the party Central Committee, member of the Revolution Council Presidium and minister of communications; 'Abdorrashid Arian, member of the party Central Committee, member of the Revolution Council, deputy prime minister, minister of justice and attorney general; other members of the party Central Committee, members of the Revolution Council and Council of Ministers, high-ranking officials of the party and government, the Soviet ambassador and the charge d'affaires of the Cuban Embassy in Kabul.

The delegation is due to be joined by Mahmoud Barialay, member of the party Central Committee in charge of the international relations department and member of the Revolution Council, who earlier, at the head of a party delegation, had gone to Hungary at the invitation of the party authorities.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES CONGRESS ENDS

Final Session

LD130036 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Dec 80

[Text] The first congress of DRA agricultural cooperatives ended today. Present at the final meeting of the DRA agricultural cooperative congress were: Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and premier of the DRA; members of the Politburo, and of the PDPA Central Committee; members of the Presidium; members of the Revolution Council; members of the Council of Ministers and the participants at the congress.

At the beginning of the meeting, which was held under the chairmanship of Nur Ahmad Nur, member of the Politburo, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and member of the Presidium of the Revolution Council, the draft of the resolution of the first agricultural cooperative congress of the DRA was read by Taher Shah Paykargar, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee and member of the Revolution Council.

The national emblem of the DRA agricultural cooperatives, which was designed by the organizing commission of the first DRA agricultural cooperatives congress, was presented for approval as the emblem of the DRA agricultural cooperatives to the members of the central commission of the DRA agricultural cooperatives and after the voting by the participants of the congress, which was conducted in a free and democratic atmosphere, the emblem was unanimously approved.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that during this meeting, the greeting messages of the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan, the Democratic Women's Organization of Afghanistan, the Armed Forces of the DRA, the Central Council of Afghanistan Trade Unions, unions of writers, artists and journalists of the DRA, that were addressed to the participants at the first DRA agricultural and cooperatives congress and which were read by the representatives of these organizations and unions, were warmly welcomed by those present.

Message to Party, Government

LD131250 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Dec 80

[Excerpt] At the final session of the first congress of the DRA agricultural cooperatives Dr Abdol Ghafar Watanyar, director of the agricultural cooperatives Central Council, read the congress greetings message to the PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Revolution Council and the DRA Government, and the declaration of solidarity with the fatherland national front, which was received by applause and expressions of fervor.

Here is the text of the greetings message of the first congress of agricultural cooperatives, to the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolution Council and the DRA Government, and the declaration of solidarity with the fatherland national front:

We, representatives of the agricultural cooperatives, employees of the government and social institutions, and participants in the first congress of agricultural cooperatives, resolutely affirm and support the entire policy of the PDPA, the Revolution Council and the DRA council of ministers, regarding implementation of the just social and economic changes, elimination of feudal and semifeudal productivity relationships, the expansion and extension of cooperative activities, removal of the economic and cultural backwardness of the people, and enhancing the level of material and cultural welfare of the toiling people.

The glorious Sawr Revolution, especially its new development stage, has provided all the conditions for the all-round development of the toiling people of Afghanistan in the social, economic and cultural spheres, and in the development and perfection of human personality, and announced the equality and brotherhood of all members of society. Therefore, we will not hesitate to make sacrifices for the preservation, consolidation and ever more extention of the great gains of the Sawr Revolution.

The PDPA and the DRA Government under the leadership of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister of the DRA, have paid serious attention on the issue of promoting the all-round development of cooperatives and for giving technical and financial assistances for the purpose of their further extension. In this series we can point out the actions regarding the new draft law on coopeatives that provides financial resources, and scientific and technical assistance, organizes administrative activities, trains and strengthens the professional cadres of the cooperatives, and aids in the formation of unions and of this congress.

We express our sincere thanks to the PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Revolution Council and the Council of Ministers for this policy, for the healthy development of the cooperatives and providing the necessary conditions.

We, participants in the DRA's first congress of agricultural cooperatives, give our promise to the PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Revolution Council and the government and to Babrak Karmal personally, to strive for strengthening the material and technical foundations of the present cocperatives, with the active cooperation and assistance of the party and government organs, for the formation of cooperatives at the district and provincial levels so that the possibility of increasing production to meet the material and cultural needs of our society is attained.

We assure the PDPA, the Revolution Council and the Government of the DRA of our support and solidarity as a strong pillar of the national fatherland front, under the leadership of the PDPA, and we shall make sacrifices for the preservation of the gains of the revolution.

We, participants in the first congress of the DRA's agricultural cooperatives, condemn the shameful intrigues and interference of American imperialism, Chinese chauvinism, Pakistani militarism and other reactionaries, in the internal affairs of our homeland and declare: Treacherous interference of imperialism. Hands off free, proud, independent and revolutionary Afghanistan.

We, participants in the first congress of agricultural cooperatives, urge the PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Revolution Council and the Council of Ministers not to hesitate in any effort and struggle for the elimination of counterrevolutionary bands, and for the repair and preservation of cooperatives, mosques, schools, bridges, the water systems, other government constructions and projects, as well as the people's property.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that at the end of the meeting, Nur Ahmad Nur made a brief speech announcing the end of the first congress of the DRA agricultural cooperatives. He said:

At this moment when the first DRA agricultural cooperatives congress is successfully carrying out its duties, I want to present the best wishes of the PDPA Central Committee and the Government of the DRA to you, and through you to all the members of agricultural cooperatives and to all the peasants and toilers of Afghanistan. Your congress which has ended its work regarding its sense of responsibility for the progress and development of the country, the party, the strengthening of the revolution and the well-being of the people and which took unanimous decisions of great importance in the country's agricultural sphere, regarding the all-round development of the agricultural cooperative movement.

Nur Ahmad Nur added: I am certain the formation of this congress, in the organization and unification of the peasants and other broad masses of toilers of the country, in the creation of agricultural cooperatives in the DRA and by its sociopolitical organization, will play an important role in ensuring peasants take active part in the extensive national fatherland front. I take this opportunity to once again announce that the cooperative movement in the country, has the full support and backing of the PDPA Central Committee and the Government of the DRA.

We wish the decisions of the congress great successes.

The meeting ended with the playing of the national anthem.

BRIEFS

CSSR MACHINERY AGREEMENT--The Machinery Department of the Water and Power Ministry and the commercial consul of the CSSR today signed documents providing for CSSR machinery and construction equipment worth $4.2 million for the maintenance department of the Helmand development project authority. [Kabul in Urdu to South Asia 1330 GMT 13 Dec 80 GF]

CUBA'S MALMIERCA HOLDS TALKS WITH GANDHI, RAO

FL151926 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1912 GMT 15 Dec 80

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca today arrived in New Delhi, India, for an official visit within the framework of the nonaligned countries movement and as mediator in the Iranian-Iraqi conflict, AFP has reported from the Indian capital.

In New Delhi, the Cuban minister held talks with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and his counterpart, Narasimha Rao. Malmierca briefed them on mediation efforts in the armed conflict between Iraq and Iran. According to AFP, official sources indicated that the Cuban foreign minister's meetings with the Indian prime minister and the foreign minister lasted 45 minutes and 120 minutes, respectively. The same sources added that views were discussed at the talks on matters relating to the next meeting of nonaligned countries' foreign minister, which has been proposed for New Delhi in February.

GANDHI STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON BREZHNEV VISIT

BK161110 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0919 GMT 16 Dec 80

["Statement by the Prime Minister in Parliament on 15 December 1980 Regarding the Visit to India of Soviet President L.I. Brezhnev"--ISI headline]

[Text] Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union His Excellency Leonid Ilich Brezhnev visited India from December 8 to 11. This was a visit to which both India and the USSR attached great importance and one which was in response to an invitation which we had extended to him in Belgrade last May. The visit was significant also because of the international and regional situations. I had several opportunities of taking detailed talks with the Soviet leader on various matters of mutual interest. At the end of the visit we signed a joint declaration. A copy of that declaration has already been placed on the table of the house.

We in India value our friendship with the Soviet Union, which goes back to even before our independence. I participated in the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the October Revolution in Moscow. Years earlier my father had gone to the Soviet Union as a representative of the Indian National Congress at its 10th anniversary. The friendship which has since developed is a multi-faceted one which has benefitted the peoples of the two countries and has contributed to world peace and stability. The socioeconomic systems of our two countries are different, but we do share a common and abiding commitment to the strengthening of world peace.

It was a good augury that the Soviet president should visit India in a year which marks the silver jubilee of Indo-Soviet economic cooperation. President Brezhnev is an old friend of India and has been here in 1961 and 1973. In many ways he has been the architect of the edifice of Indo-Soviet friendship. President Brezhnev was accompanied by a distinguished delegation amongst whom were Foreign Minister Gromyko and First Deputy Prime Minister Arkhipov, who are also our friends of long standing.

We dispossed a large number of questions, expecially those of direct concern to our countries. We both agreed on the need for a climate of peace and cooperation in our neighbourhood and for making determined efforts towards this end by all concerned; for indeed, Indo-Soviet relations are not against any third country. It is a friendship that we both value greatly and in our pursuit of goodneighbourly relations we ensure that Indo-Soviet relations are not adversely affected. More than words or deeds bear out the truth of this assertion.

On the bilateral side our discussions were focused on the further strengthening of cooperation between our two countries. An agreement in economic and technical cooperation which I signed with President Brezhnev provides a framework for this. The Soviet Union has agreed to cooperate with India in three very important sectors: power, coal mining and oil exploration. This is over and above the traditional cooperation in ferrous metallurgy, more specifically the expansion of Bhilai and Bokaro and the erection of a new integrated steel plant at Vishakhapatnam. The two sides have identified some specific projects which were left out of the sixth plan because of lack of resources. Thanks to an offer of Soviet credit of rubles 520 million--slightly under rupees 5.2 billion--these will now be taken up during the next 4 to 6 years. They will contribute significantly to the further strengthening of India's industrial sinews. Three more agreements were signed during the visit: 1. A trade agreement, 2. A protocol on cooperation in the Field of Cinematography, 3. A programme of cultural, scientific and educational exchanges for the years 1981-82. Honourable members will be glad to hear that in response to our request the Soviet Union has agreed to increase its supplies of crude oil to India from the current level of 1.5 million tonnes to 2.5 million tonnes annually and of oil products from 1.9 million tonnes to 2.25 million tonnes annually for the next 5 years. This will be against additional exports from India and will substantially boost our two-way trade. We appreciate this friendly gesture.

Our discussions on international relations covered the world situation in general and affairs in our region in some detail. On the Indian Ocean and on the continuing conflict between Iran and Iraq there was a close proximity of views. On Afghanistan the views of the Soviet Union, with which honourable members are already familiar, were reiterated by President Brezhnev. On our part we made our perceptions clear and conveyed our serious concern. We expressed our opposition to all forms of outside interference in the internal affairs of other countries, whether through the induction of regular troops or through infiltration, and our view that all such interference should stop in order to make possible a political solution. Both sides agreed that there is no alternative to a peaceful political solution to the problems in southwest Asia as well as to other situations wherever they may arise. The Soviet leader expressed the hope that India would continue to play her constructive role in defusing the situation and helping to find peaceful political solutions.

Continuing tensions and growing conflicts in our region have given outside forces an opportunity to exploit these tensions to their advantage. Recent years have seen a revival of efforts by certain nonlittoral great powers to increase or consolidate their military presences in the Indian Ocean. There is much activity in building existing bases and in acquiring new bases and facilities. We have ourselves been demanding that the entire Indian Ocean should be freed of great power presences so that it can become a zone of peace. The people of Asia and Africa can ill afford embroilment in this international power game which seems to be the beginning of a new cold war. We have shared our concern frankly with our Soviet friends. We have not looked upon the situation in Southwest Asia in isolation either, as a situation affecting this or that country or only a group of countries. These tensions are related to regional and global situations. The great powers have special responsibility in bringing about general and positive improvement in relations on a global scale, and in this context the proposals made by President Brezhnev in his address to honourable members appear constructive and worthy of careful consideration. The Soviet leaders made no secret of their concern with the new, escalating tensions in Europe and the stalemate in the central European disarmament negotiations. Honourable members will recall that two world wars, the most devastating conflicts mankind has ever known, began on the Continent of Europe. It is therefore imperative that peace prevails in Europe. The process of detente in Europe contributed to the acceptance of postwar realities and the promotion of mutual confidence and cooperation. We hope that this process will recover from its recent setbacks and will be strengthened and extended to other regions of the globe.

The visit of the Soviet president has afforded us a valuable opportunity of reaffirming the strength and vitality of Indo-Soviet relations. These relations are based on trust and mutuality of interest and have therefore stood the test of time. Even though we may occasionally have different perceptions on some specific event, our friendship will prosper and we can continue to cooperate between ourselves and with other like-minded countries in our dedication to the maintenance and strengthening of world peace.

GANDHI: INDIA HELPING TO DEFUSE AFGHAN CRISIS

BK150736 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Dec 80

[Text] The prime minister has said that India's efforts have helped in easing the Afghan crisis. In an interview to the Delhi edition of the KAUMI AZAZ, an Urdu daily which made its maiden appearance yesterday, Mrs Gandhi said India has succeeded in creating a little sanity in the situation. She said had there been the type of confrontation that people were envisaging earlier, it would have destroyed Afghanistan. Also, it would have created big problems for the rest of the world, but now everybody agrees that there should be a political settlement of the Afghan issue and the attitude of the West has softened a bit.

About the recent communal riots in the country, Mrs Gandhi said these took place not because of any differences between the two communities but due to deliberate attempts of some people who wanted to create chaotic conditions in the society. She said it is just a few who like the fire and a lot of innocent people get caught in it. Mrs Gandhi observed that a series of agitations and disturbances taking place simultaneously all over the country are a part of a well planned move and not a mere coincidence.

VAJPAYEE: INDIA GAINED LITTLE IN BREZHNEV TALKS

BK131504 Hong Kong AFP in English 1413 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Text] New Delhi, 13 Dec (AFP)--Former Foreign Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that India gained little while the Soviet Union achieved a lot from the joint declaration issued at the end of the just-concluded visit of Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev.

The Soviet Union wanted a certificate from India, the prominent member of neutral nations, on the Afghanistan issue and Mr Brezhnev succeeded in his attempts, said Mr Vajpayee who now heads the Bharatiya Janata (Indian People's) Party. There was no mention of Afghanistan in the joint declaration, he pointed out while talking to the press at Gwalior, in central India.

Mr Vajpayee, who is a prominent opposition member of Parliament, said the Soviet Union might become now a landbased power in the Pacific region and needed no military base like the United States or other countries. He said Pakistan was not in a position to attack India now because of the fear of the Soviet Union entering from the Afghan side.

COMMENTATOR LAUDS BREZHNEV PROPOSALS, VISIT

BK121153 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 12 Dec 80

[Commentator and journalist N.S. Bedi commentary]

[Text] Those who expected any dramatic announcement about Afghanistan to come from Brezhnev during his visit to New Delhi would have been disillusioned. If he had an instant solution to offer, he could have made it known at any time and in Moscow itself.

Real significance of the visit is that it accorded an opportunity to the two friendly countries--India and the Soviet Union--to exchange views first hand and at the top level on vital developments affecting their immediate neighborhood. Their common approach, even they were on general terms, has found expression in the joint declaration issued at the end of the Soviet leader's visit. It records the serious concern of the two countries over the hotbeds of tension in southwest Asia and reiterates their opposition to all forms of interference in the internal affairs of the region. They feel that the problems of the region demand peaceful political solutions. These should be based on full respect for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and nonaligned status of the countries of the region. They called upon these countries to end quickly the armed conflicts, exercise restraint and cooperate in reducing tension and restoring peace.

Although the joint declaration does not mention Afghanistan specifically, the Indian prime minister and the Soviet president during their talks and elsewhere made their viewpoints fully clear. Mrs Gandhi, in her discussions with Brezhnev, expressed her anxiety over the impact of continuing Soviet presence in Afghanistan. She reiterated that India is against all kinds of interference which has affected the progress, sovereignty and nonaligned status of Afghanistan. She also mentioned the danger of other big powers getting involved to the detriment of the countries of the region.

The Indian prime minister was, thus, consistent in her stand that this country does not condone foreign intervention or any type of domination of one country over another. The Soviet Union too has stuck to its stand on Afghanistan. Brezhnev stated in his address to the members of the Indian Parliament on Wednesday [10 December] that Soviet troops will be withdrawn from Afghanistan once a goodneighborly agreement was reached among Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran. The Soviets have all along been making their troop withdrawal conditional on a prior political settlement, but so far no dialogue has got going. It is doubtful whether yet another reiteration of Moscow's position would lead to any significant change in the situation.

In his address the Soviet president proposed a five-point doctrine to insure peace in the Gulf region. This opposes the setting up of military bases and deployment of nuclear or any weapon of mass destruction in the region. It also seeks to prohibit use of or threat to use force against countries in the Persian Gulf. The nonaligned status of these countries should be respected. Also there should be no obstacles or threats to normal trade exchanges and the use of sealanes linking the states of the area with other countries. The doctrine as such is unexceptionable even desirable.

It is, however, mainly for the superpowers to discipline themselves on the line stipulated in the doctrine. To what extent this form of detente comes into operation in the region will be known only in the light of future events. Frankly, current indications do not hold out much hope.

India and the Soviet Union have common views on many vital issues, like the role of nonalignment, the need for making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace and opposition to colonialism and racialism. These have found expression once again in the joint declaration.

In mutual relations there has been deep and many-sided cooperation between the two countries, which has benefited both. The Soviet Union will continue to cooperate in the construction of large scale projects in India and the development of specially vital sectors of this country's economy. A big expansion in trade is envisaged. Various accords signed during Brezhnev's visit provide for all this. It is bilateral cooperation in science, technology and economic development that had given a solid content to Indo-Soviet friendship, which has stood the test of time and is based on full freedom of action and thought by both sides. It can be truly said that the Soviet president's visit has added strength to this friendship.

GANDHI REMARKS ON PAKISTANI ARMS BUILDUP ASSAILED

BK160399 Karachi DAWN in English 8 Dec 80 p 7

[Editorial: "'War Talks'--Facts and Fiction"]

[Text] Addressing the Rajya Sabha (upper house of Parliament) on November 29, Mrs Indira Gandhi spoke about an increasing threat to India's security from what she called an unusual arms build-up by Pakistan. She picked up the ominous theme the next day at Rae Bareli where she spoke of Pakistan's "activities" on her country's border, adding that the subject would be discussed during the forthcoming visit of the Soviet president, Mr Leonid Brezhnev, to New Delhi. The reaction in Pakistan to Mrs Gandhi's observations would have been one of shocked surprise--as it certainly was--even if she had not talked of telling Mr Brezhnev about the perceived 'threat' from this country, but the fact that she did enhances the gravity of the matter. It is perhaps relevant to bear in mind that the Soviet press has latterly printed materials critical of Pakistan. Mrs Gandhi's own cynical remarks may appear to be less abrupt if one remembers that sections of the Indian press have recently gone so far as to discuss openly the possibility of war between India and Pakistan, the debate having been joined by Mr Subramaniam of the Indian Institute of Strategic Studies. All this cannot but create tensions between the two countries.

Apparently, Mrs Gandhi wants her 'concern' to be taken seriously by her countrymen, but as indicated by the sharp rebuttals it has drawn from some of the leading Indian opposition leaders, this does not seem to be happening. Former Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai totally disagrees with Mrs Gandhi's view that there is an imminent danger of war emanating from Pakistan. On the contrary, he has characterised Mrs Gandhi's alarmist utterances as an attempt at creating a "war psychosis" to divert public attention from the worsening domestic situation. This apparently is the most charitable construction one can put upon Mrs Gandhi's theory of a threat from Pakistan. Otherwise, it would be very difficult to see why the Indian prime minister is keen to give a bad name to a small neighbouring country which is wholly busy grappling with the fall-out from its north-west. It is important to note that Mrs Gandhi has spoken about a presumed arms build-up, without specifying the dimension of it or the sources from which military hardware of the kind and quantum capable of threatening India's security is being obtained. Nor has she furnished anything in the way of vetifiable details as to the Pakistani "activities" on the border which have occasioned her concern. To put things to the test of simple logic and realism, would it make good military and strategic sense for Pakistan to prepare for a war-like move against India at a time when this country has to contend with a real security problem of its own as a consequence of the Afghan developments? And can Pakistan provide the economic underpinnings of a military confrontation with India when its economy is straining under the weight of a massive refugee problem as an offshoot of the Afghan crisis? Given Pakistan's known resource position and available military strength, it is inconceivable that it can pose a credible military threat to a country of the size and military and economic power of India. Indeed, the basic pattern of Pakistan's military disposition can only be defensive and, in that context, whatever arms and equipment it has or might want to acquire can only be for meeting the legitimate needs of national defence.

On the other hand, India, which already possesses a formidable military machine, based increasingly on its own armaments production, including sophisticated weapons of war, has recently opted for 1.6-billion-dollars worth of military hardware from the Soviet Union.

It has also signed a two-billion-dollar Jaguar contract with Britain, besides planning to obtain the latest version of Mirage aircraft from France and submarines from Germany, and most of all, New Delhi had added a new dimension of military potential to its nuclear capability by successfully testing a space satellite in July this year, which can be the basis for developing an effective delivery system.

In the light of these hard and widely known facts, any talk of a serious military threat from Pakistan can either be a new innovation in the art of political mystification or a convenient cover for India's own hectic military preparations. It may also be, as Mr Desai has suggested, a device for diverting public attention from India's domestic scene marked as it has lately been by a high rate of inflation, ethnic eruptions, communal riots, angry protests against police brutality and a general feeling of administrative drift. Whatever may have provided the motivation for conjuring up a non-existent war threat from Pakistan, the plan truth is that this country has no need to strike a hostile posture towards India or to arm itself beyond the reasonable needs of defence. It has given ample proof of its bonafides on this score by proposing, during Foreign Minister Agha Shahi's visit to New Delhi in July last, an agreed ratio between the armed strengths the countries ought to maintain. It was India's suggestion to defer the consideration of the issue to "an appropriate time."

Despite occasional dampers from the other side, Pakistan has been seeking to improve its relations with India on a basis of equality and mutual respect. Mr Desai has acknowledged this fact, saying that as prime minister when he made a gesture of goodwill to Pakistan, this country had "responded magnificently". In his way of thinking, India, being the bigger country, has a major role to play in inspiring confidence in Pakistan and promoting friendly ties and understanding between the two countries. This indeed is the crux of the matter. It is for India to win the trust and confidence of its smaller neighbours by following correct principles in dealing with them and by showing a healthy respect for their legitimate rights and interests. In her latest statement touching upon the subject, Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi has partly modified her earlier stand on the so-called security threat from Pakistan and tried to allay the apprehension of an imminent conflict between Pakistan and India. Her foreign minister, too, has spoken in a conciliatory vein about the prospects of Indo-Pakistan relations. These are encouraging as far as they go, but quite obviously, it will take more than mere reassuring words to remove the fears and anxieties aroused by the recent 'war talk' in New Delhi and the bellicose propaganda by a section of the Indian press and mass media. Whether there is a genuine change in attitude and policy is a matter that will be keenly watched by the government and the people of this country.

PRC MILITARY DELEGATION VISITS PAKISTAN

Arrival in Rawalpindi

BK130911 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Text] A good-will military delegation of the People's Republic of China arrived in Rawalpindi yesterday evening on a visit to Pakistan.

Visit to Islamabad

BK131552 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Text] The visiting Chinese good-will military delegation called on Chief of the Naval Staff Adm Karamat Rahman Niazi at the naval headquarters in Islamabad today. The delegation, which is led by (Han Huayi), also called on Vice Chief of the Army Staff Gen Sawar Khan at Gsu [as heard], Rawalpindi.

RAJA'I COMMENTS ON 'FINAL STAGE' OF HOSTAGE ISSUE

LD160529 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0335 GMT 16 Dec 80

[Excerpts] Last night the government council held a session presided over by Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i. At this session the country's monetary issues and the American hostages were discussed and studied. Also present at the session were: Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani, the interior minister; Qandi, minister of post, telegraph and telephone; and Kalantari, minister of roads and transport, who had gone to Sistan va Baluchestan and who described the results of their journey.

At the end of the session our morning correspondent was granted an interview by Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, the prime minister. [Passage omitted on Sistan va Baluchestan visit]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Your Excellency, regarding the hostage issue, concerning which there has been no news the past few days, we had been awaiting a reply and we heard the reply from the American administration. Could you tell us at present what decision the Government of Iran has made in this regard? What is the situation of the hostages on the whole? Could you explain this to our viewers and listeners?

[Raja'i] I would say in reply that the hostage issue is almost at its final stage. We have consulted with some brothers, and we discussed it tonight in the government council as well. The brothers present in the government council gave some directives. God willing, we will be received by the imam tomorrow or the day after and we will present a report. If his eminence consents, we will submit a reply soon. In this regard I would like to say that the Government of Iran has carried out all its duties. The suggestions and replies it has given [as heard] to America's reply in connection with the hostage issue will be the final reply. Then it will be up to the U.S. Administration to adopt measures on taking these 52 people. [end recording]

RAJA'I SAYS U.S. CAN HAVE HOSTAGES 'ANY TIME'

LD161110 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1035 GMT 16 Dec 80

[Text] PARS reports that Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, accompanied by Minister of State [executive affairs] Behzad Nabavi, was received this morning by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During this meeting Mr Raja'i conferred with the imam of the nation regarding the issue of the hostages.

Following this meeting, in an interview with PARS, the prime minister said: The imam was consulted regarding the fate of the American spies. The imam gave permission to us to reply regarding this matter; we hope that soon we will not have a so-called hostage issue.

The last reply has been received from the U.S. Government; we have prepared a reply with conditions acceptable to all officials and the people of Iran. For, as we have stated before, this issue is like a dead [mordeh] issue to us. We have prepared replies, in order to free the issue from procrastination and cumbersomeness, which we will announce to the U.S. Government through the representative of the Algerian Government who has come to Iran for this same purpose. Mr Raja'i added: It is now up to the United States. It can at any time or on any day, any time or any day, for any festival or birthday anniversary or on any other occasion that it likes, take the hostages away from Iran. We no longer have a problem which could be regarded as a political problem and which would need time here.

The United States has only to provide certain financial guarantees, what we have demanded, through the Algerian Government, which is protecting Iran's interests, and then take away the spies.

BANI-SADR, FALLAHI QUESTIONED ON HOSTAGES, WAR

LD151841 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1636 GMT 15 Dec 80

[Text] Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this morning took part in a press conference with a group of foreign correspondents who have recently returned from the warfronts and answered their various questions. General Fallahi, the acting chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was also present at this press conference.

In answer to a question as to what stage the Cuban proposal had reached, the president said: We have informed the Cuban foreign minister of our views, and our positions are known. We cannot agree to any conditions before we have driven the enemy forces out of our territory.

A correspondent asked: During the past month you have on several occasions spoken of the Iranian Army's imminent offensive. What is your view on this offensive in the near future?

The president said in reply: What we have said we have also carried out, for we have halted 12 Iraqi divisions which were advancing inside our territory. Do you not think that we have done this by fighting? The time has come for us now to take the next step, namely, to weaken and wear down the enemy, which is something we are busy doing, and we hope that in the coming weeks you will be able to see that we are capable in this regard and that we have done what we have said.

Another correspondent asked: Why have the negotiations regarding the hostages been prolonged? What has delayed the release of the hostages, and when will this issue be resolved? The president said: In my view, the main cause of the prolongation of the issue lies in the policy of those who hold the real power in the United States; and the solution of the issue is apparently easy, for the Majlis has demanded that the Americans return our money to us. I think if they accept the conditions clearly and unambiguously the issue will be resolved forthwith. So if there is any problem it is due to the replies that the Americans provide. You may [presumably responding to an American correspondent] give a sort of reply which would make us realize that $6 billion worth of our money would go down the drain. Of course, I am not talking about the money that the shah and his associates have stolen and taken away. Rather I am talking about the money that belongs to the Iranian Government and which is held in the American banking systems or in banking systems under their domination. These are the issues that they should answer very clearly. If they provide an answer that we can understand, we will not get back a half or even a third of the money. [as heard] Of course, it would be an answer which would not lead to a solution, and I do not think that our people would accept a solution which would tamper with even a penny of their money.

In answer to a question as to who is the real rival to his policy in Iran, the president said: The main rivals are the counterrevolutionaries who have been committing acts of sedition right from the inception of the revolution, and who are still doing it. They are those who, in plotting against this republic, have also moved ahead in collusion with a foreign power by dragging foreign armed forces into the country. We have so far triumphed over these rivals and will triumph over them in the future as well.

A correspondent asked: In the latest issue of the ENQELAB-E ESLAMI you referred to certain plots and designs against yourself. What are these plots and who is behind them? If the Americans are behind them who are those in Iran who work for them? The president, in reply to the foreign correspondents said: Your yourselves have come back from warstricken regions, and one of the most important of these plots is the war that has been imposed upon us. As to who is behind this war that is not unknown to you, for you are correspondents and you know that the Iraqi Government alone would not have allowed itself to initiate this war against us. One of the domestic agents of these plots, in an interview he had held abroad recently, had preferred Saddam to Imam Khomeyni as his choice between the two. So this war has its domestic agents as well.

And as for what America's role in this is: Are you surprised by the fact that there is a war going on the two superpowers' joint borders [as heard] and in the most sensitive part of the world and that these two superpowers are quietly watching the war? Does it not occur to you that they find this business in their interest otherwise they would not be quiet? Thus, these tangible and clear facts leave no doubt that these plots do exist and the biggest of them all is this very war. We also now have civil war, and economic blockade and dozens of plots and assassination plans and other things. Some of these things have taken place in the past and some of them are being implemented. Perhaps they have plans for the future as well.

According to a PARS correspondent, Brigadier General Fallahi also answered some of the questions raised by the correspondents, and in reply to a question as to why the Iraqi artillery fire was still able to hit Dezful, he said: The air offensive operations of our armed forces have been going on since the beginning of the war, and it would be better for you to ask the personnel of the mercenary Iraqi Armed Forces about the impact of our air offensive. Our naval offensive has also been going on since the beginning of the war, and our air and naval forces still possess considerable offensive spirit [ruhiyeh]. As for the ground forces, I should say that our ground forces, with the support from the nation and that of the imam of our ummah [community of Isalmic believers] and with the support from Dr Bani-Sadr, are going to tip the balance in their favor. Brig General Fallahi added: The artillery of the aggressive Iraqi Army is still able to operate against Dezful or Ahvaz, but this is due to the penetration of single volleys.

In answer to a question as to what, in his view, had caused a halt in air raids on the capitals of the two countries in recent weeks, Fallahi said: Our combat air capability has not diminished. It has even increased. But the reduction in Iraqi air attacks is noticeable. The monitoring of Iran's sky by our air force could be a reason for this reduction. The second reason lies in the stationing of air defense weapons in all the military and economic installations, which are vital, important and sensitive. We do not have a worthy military and economic target that is not protected by an air defense system and a good communications system and thorough observation. We should say that as a rule Iraqi planes have seldom been able to bring back to their country more than 50 percent of their force.

According to a report, Dr Bani-Sadr, the president and commander in chief, returned to Khuzestan this evening.

KUNA CITES ALGERIA'S BEN YAHIA ON HOSTAGE MEDIATION

LD161032 Kuwait KUNA Arabic 0905 GMT 16 Dec 80

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 16 Dec (KUNA)--The foreign minister of Algeria, Mohamed Ben Yahia said today that 2 days ago the United States replied to new clarifications asked for by the Iranian leaders about the U.S. stand regarding the hostages crisis and Iran's conditions for their release. Before leaving Kuwait for the UAE as part of his tour of Arab states, he told KUNA that the United States is now awaiting the Iranian reply to the American response. However, he refused to give further details on the matter.

It is not known whether the clarifications asked for by Iran are the same ones transmitted by Algerian envoys about 10 days ago to Tehran or if they are new clarifications asked for by Iran after it received clarifications from the Algerian mediators.

Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i has stated that the latest Iranian reply to America is in its final stages. It will be submitted to Washington after it is put before Imam Ayatollah Khomeyni and he has given his view about it.

Ben Yahia said that Algeria is playing a mediation role between Iran and the United States, that it represents Iranian interests in the United States "and accordingly transmits the proposals regarding the 52 hostages from both sides."

Ben Yahia, before leaving Kuwait, held a meeting with Kuwaiti minister of finance 'Abd ar-Rahman al-'Atiqi and discussed with him aspects of economic cooperation between the two countries.

KUNA ON SYRIAN PRESIDENT'S ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS

LD141210 Kuwait KUNA in English 1012 GMT 14 Dec 80

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Dec (KUNA)--A local newspaper Sunday predicted that the American hostages detained in Iran since November 2 last year will be released within ten days of Washington and Tehran reaching an agreement to that effect.

AL-WATAN newspaper quoted international diplomatic sources as saying Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad played an important role in convincing the Iranian leaders to take such a step.

The sources added that Al-Asad played this role after "the intervention of an American Republican personality close to President-elect Ronald Reagan."

The approach was made on the basis that a new era of relations will be opened after the new president assumes office on January 20.

The newspaper added that Algerian mediators currently in Tehran with the latest American reply to the four Iranian conditions set for the release of the 52 hostages, will head for Damascus Sunday. They are expected to meet with the Algerian foreign minister, Mohamed Ben Yahia, who is in the Syrian capital at present to convey the American-Iranian agreement.

The newspaper said that the hostages' first landing station will be Damascus.

RAJA'I INTERVIEWED ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, OIL

LD160029 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2107 GMT 15 Dec 80

[Text] Prime Minister Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i last night took part in an interview with correspondents of the Swiss and Austrian radios and answered questions on certain issues, including relations with Europe and the Soviet Union, the Iran-Iraq war and other topics.

In answer to the question: Would you be able to, without the assistance of industrial countries, preserve your independence? The prime minister said: Yes. Because we want to have a healthy and independent life we would welcome technology as a means to make greater progress. But we would not accept this technology at the cost of losing our independence and nondependence.

Regarding Iran's relations with Russia Mr Raja'i said: From our standpoint Russia is also imperialist, and our relations with that country should not go far that they harm our independence, for we shall always bear in mind the principle of being independent first and then meeting our needs.

In answer to the question as to whether Iran would be thinking of restoring its previous good relations with West Germany, the prime minister said: Many people are trying to represent Europe as a world separate from the East and the West. For us, however, a mere label is not important: For us what is important is the attitude. For example, in the case of the American economic blockade of Iran we observed that West Germany was also moving in step with the United States. Not only have they imposed an economic blockade on us but they even refused to pay what they owe us. For this reason, we regret that we are unable to regard Europe as being independent of the United States. Thus we shall never lose sight of our experiences over the past 2 years.

The question was asked: Would you need to export more oil in order to rebuild the damages caused by the war, and would you say how many barrels a day you would have to sell to rebuild these damages? The prime minister said: In order to rebuild we shall have to sell more oil. But we should bear two points in mind: While we have the utmost interest in rebuilding, nevertheless we shall not act hastily in a way that our exports would become illogical. In rebuilding the damages caused by the war we shall rely upon our own creative power.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI COMMENTS ON BREZHNEV'S GULF PLAN

JN141426 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Dec 80

[Text] Under the headline "The Persian Gulf Is Not the Bay of Pigs," JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI writes on the five-point plan Brezhnev proposed during his visit to India on the so-called neutralization of the Persian Gulf.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI says that Brezhnev's plan will be of interest to political and informational quarters in the Eastern camp, who will wish to highlight it on the informational and international levels.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI says that Brezhnev's plan is intended to counter Carter's plan to protect strategic U.S. interests in the Persian Gulf.

Commenting on this, the paper says that the presentation of these two plans makes the Gulf area appear as if it is an area without a master or as if its sons do not care about it. It also seems that Uncle Sam's sons do not realize that the Persian Gulf is not the Bay of Pigs.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI then reviews the Persian Gulf countries' stands on Brezhnev's plan. These stands vary from the support voiced by Kuwaiti papers to the silence observed by the other Gulf countries, which had earlier denounced the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI adds that Brezhnev's plan on the Persian Gulf apparently seems to be a good one. One, however, must wonder whether all of the sweet talk is really a good thing.

The paper believes that the new Soviet plan cannot be carried out prior to the Soviet forces' total withdrawal [words indistinct] the Iraqi regime to demonstrate its good intentions toward the states [words indistinct], prior to Russia's abrogation of the 1921 agreement it concluded with the Iranian government of the time and which was unilaterally abrogated by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the wake of the triumph of the Islamic revolution and prior to a reduction in Soviet military presence in the Near East and in the waters adjacent to the Persian Gulf.

FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON TRAVEL TO TURKEY

LD151208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Dec 80

[Text] According to a report of the Central News Bureau, the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran in a statement announced that compatriots who wish to visit Turkey should pay attention to the following points:

When they arrive in Turkey they should make sure that their passport is stamped with the entry stamp to that country. They should ask the customs officials in Turkey to make a note in their passport of everything they have with them, including a car, presents, money, jewelry and so forth. Also, they should make sure that when they are leaving Turkey their passport is stamped with the exit stamp. Also, Iranian travelers should bear in mind that apart from checks issued on accounts in Turkish banks, no other checks are negotiable in the banks of that country. If they are going to a third country by land they should have cash or travelers checks with them.

At the end of this statement, the people are asked not to go to Turkey in order to obtain visas to a third country because in most cases it is impossible and, in some cases, it takes a very long time.

AYATOLLAHS CONDEMN OPPOSITION TO KHOMEYNI

LD161034 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Dec 80

[Statements by Ayatollahs Seyyed Asadollah Madani, Mohammad Zaduqi and Seyyed 'Abdolhoseyn Dastgheyb--announcer read]

[Excerpts] Following recent incidents and conspiracies in the cities of Qdm, Tehran, Mashhad and Esfahan against the committed clergy, which led to insult against the lofty position of the regency of the jurisconsult [Khomeyni], their eminences the ayatollahs have issued the following statements:

In His exalted name. Muslim and fighting nation of Iran: After suffering defeats in repeated conspiracies that were hatched in opportune time, the enemy has prepared himself to fight against the committed clergy and the jurisconsult--those strong emplacements for defending Islam--with his latest weapon, and intends to create division; the documents in the espionage den testify to this. Fortunately, the awareness of you, the heroic nation, has so far thwarted all plots. The recent events in Qom, Tehran, Mashhad and Esfahan, which are feeble attempts to separate the fighting clergy from the Muslim people are, as in the past, doomed to fail.

The brave, heroic and Muslim people of Tabriz and all others in these cities, to condemn the plots of the world-devouring traitors, will close their bazaars and stores on Thursday 18 December--this day of the solidarity of the clergy and students--in order to renew allegiance to the imam of the nation and the fighting clergy; and by marching and shouting resolute slogans condemn all satanic plots.

May peace be with you.

[Signed] Seyyed Asadolloah Madani

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Fighting and aware nation of Iran: Since the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran, the defeated enemy has found himself powerless and disconsolate; he has tried in opportune times to attack this revolution by hatching plots and to weaken its bases. But, since God supports the backbone of this great revolution, this plot has failed.

Now, as a last resort, he has attacked this throbbing heart of the revolution, that is, the fighting and committed clergy and jurisconsult and thus, by creating division, intends to destroy the revolution from within. Fortunately, the revolutionary awareness of you, Muslim and fighting nation--blessed by the Almighty--will thwart this plot. The recent events and plots that were carried out in Qom, Tehran, Mashhad and Esfahan clearly proved that the Iranian nation will never forsake the fighting clergy, who are the pivots of the revolution, and will strongly condemn any insult to the pioneers [pish qaravolan] of the revolution; the Iranian nation knows full well that the accursed songs sung by the counterrevolution and those opposed to the Islamic revolution are ineffective and futile, and that division between the clergy and the million-strong masses would result in the total annihilation of the revolution and the realization of the wishes of foreign superpowers and their internal mercenaries.

It [presumably the nation] will strengthen its eternal alliance with the committed and fighting clergy, who have borne the burden of the revolution in the worst conditions, and will deal a strong blow to the mouths of internal babblers and their foreign masters.

The Muslim people of Yazd, to condemn plots hatched by the world-devouring superpowers carried out in Qom, Tehran, Mashhad and Esfahan, and to renew allegiance to the imam and the fighting clergy, will stage a great march on 18 December which will coincide with the anniversary of the martyrdom of Dr Mofatteh, and will thus condemn the feeble attempts by a bunch of deceived and corrupt individuals.

[Signed] Mohammad Saduqi of Yazd

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. World imperialism, led by the arch-Satan, the United States, after suffering a defeat in the war imposed by the traitor Saddam, which he waged on their orders and in which he was unsuccessful, and after failing in all the plots that it hatched to defeat the Islamic revolution of Iran, which were all neutralized with the help of God and alertness of the nation, has nowadays embarked on attacking the essence of the victory of the nation and the heart of the revolution; its defeat would mean certain defeat for the revolution, being as it is the position of the jurisconsult.

Since the Muslim nation of Iran regards the jurisconsult as a spokesman of the Lord of the ages, obey him and consider the rule by any individual or group other than him as satanic, and deem the fight against it as necessary; the Satans intend to overthrow the rule of the jurisconsult so that they can once more rule this oppressed nation. First, they attacked the clergy and their effective agents in Qom, Tehran and Mashhad, through their lackeys; recently, they dared to insult the jurisconsult in Esfahan. This event is a great catastrophe to Islam and Muslims; silence in face of which would be the defeat of Islam, which is the aim of imperialism and the enemies of Islam.

Hence, it is necessary for the courageous and Muslim nation of Iran to hold public mourning on Thursday, 18 December, throughout Iran, in order to express their disgust at this great catastrophe which has befallen Islam, and by staging rallies and gatherings, show their contempt for the shameful action of these criminals, and their allegiance to the jurisconsult, to the dismay of the enemies of Islam.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Abdolhoseyn Dastgheyb

AFP: KHALKHALI TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT IN 1984

NC130742 Paris AFP in English 0737 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Text] Tehran, 13 Dec (AFP)--Former chief judge and anti-narcotics boss Sadeq Khalkhali indicated in an interview today he will run against Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr in the 1984 election.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khalkhali told the Tehran TIMES he had a good chance of being elected and that was why a number of politicians had started criticizing him.

He said one reason he resigned as head of the anti-narcotics drive on Dec 7 was because President Bani-Sadr was criticizing him.

INTERIOR MINISTER LEADS DELEGATION TO ZAHEDAN

LD131200 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau report, Ayatollah [as heard] Mahdavi-Kani, the interior minister, arrived in Zahedan this morning at the head of a delegation comprising Dr Qandi, minister of post, telegraph and telephone; engineer Kalantari, minister of roads and transports; the political deputy of the revolution prosecutor general; a representative of the prime minister; and a number of under secretaries from various ministries. The aim of the visit to Sistan va Baluchestan Province is to investigate the region's problems.

On their arrival in Zahedan the minister of interior and his companions met and had talks at the office of the governor general of Sistan va Baluchestan with representatives of our Sunni and Shi'ite brothers on the problems and difficulties of the region.

GOVERNOR ON GULF SHIPPING, HORMOZEGAN SITUATION

LD160901 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 7 Dec 80 p 3

[KEYHAN correspondent report on press conference given by Governor General of Hormozegan Province engineer Hasan'ali 'Azimi: "In the Persian Gulf Iran Allows Freedom of Navigation to All Ships, Except Those Bound for Iraq"]

[Excerpts] Bandar-e 'Abbas--"The Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy is responsible for the control and security of the waters of the Persian Gulf, and after carrying out checks and inspections, it allows freedom of navigation to all foreign ships, except those bound for Iraq."

The above remark was made during a press conference given by Governor General of Hormozegan Province engineer Hasan'ali 'Azimi, who went on to say:

"The firepower of our navy in the Persian Gulf is enough to deter any ship or warship from threatening our southern coasts and islands."

Concerning the defense and security of Kish Island in the present situation, he said:

"With the aid of the fighting, selfless navy and the air force, Kish Island is well protected, and I am happy to say that the firepower of our forces in the Persian Gulf is enough to deter any ship or warship from threatening our islands, or the strait of Hormuz."

On the subject of protecting and defending the seacoasts of the province, which are of particular importance, he said:

"As regards their defense, a full state of preparedness exists and there is coordination between all the forces of the region, including the air force, the navy and the security forces, as well as those of the municipalities, the gendarmerie, the army and the guards corps. Representatives of these forces have undertaken a careful review of all problems in the permanent sessions of the provincial headquarters, and they have the ability to overcome them in the shortest period."

Referring to various state problems, to the situation in Hormozegan Province and to political and social issues connected with the war, he said:

"The greatest problem is illiteracy, since this is what has impeded or prevented the growth of industry in Hormozegan Province. We are in need of educated specialists to run and expand these industries.

"In projects now underway aimed at overcoming shortages, we shall permit the unemployed to import the goods required, rather than smuggle contraband goods."

The governor general then referred to shortages of foodstuffs and supplies required for agriculture in the following terms:

"The wheat and barley harvest of Hormozegan Province each year provides only a 20-day food supply for the people; thus we face a shortage of food in this province.

"Negligence on the part of officials has resulted in the Persian Gulf shipyards becoming idle, and I hope to remedy this state of affairs with the assistance of farsighted, educated individuals and specialists.

"Since the imposed war began, we have provided accommodation in the province for [illegible] war victims. The daily cost of feeding them exceeds 3 million rials, and [illegible] by the government.

"With the help of committed staff, we have increased productivity at the [illegible] 'Abbas docks and, at present, one truck is loaded every minute."

In conclusion the governor general said:

"The capacity of Hormozegan Province to accept war victims is now saturated, and we ask war victims to go to other towns and provinces for accommodation."

CLERGYMAN ARRIVES IN DUBAYY, ADDRESSES MEETING

GF121653 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Dec 80

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam ('Abbas 'Ali Sarfarazi), member of the Muslim mojahedin ulema association in Iran, arrived in Dubayy yesterday to explain the crimes of the puppet Iraqi regime in the war imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran and to thank the Iranian community in the UAE for its donations to war victims.

Hojjat ol-Eslam (Sarfarazi) attended a large meeting held by the Iranian community in Dubayy. He explained the crimes perpetrated by the fascist Iraqi regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Referring to the question of leadership, Hojjat ol-Eslam (Sarfarazi) said: Imam Hoseyn said that leadership and government should not be imposed on the people except (?according) to God's book and the prophet's tradition. We find these qualities today in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran and in Imam Khomeyni's leadership.

Referring to the recent plot by the United States and its local agents against the ulema, Hojjat ol-Eslam (Sarfarazi) said: Can you find imperialist (?plots) or a shameful agreement signed by any one of the ulema? The struggling mojahedin are always standing fast in the face of the superpowers and imperialist and infidel regimes. Therefore, the United States plots against them. Otherwise, what business does the United States and its local agents have with the ulema?

Referring to the donations contributed by the Iranian community in the UAE to war victims, Hojjat ol-Eslam (Sarfarazi) said: I thank you for your sense of responsibility and your assistance to your valiant brothers in Islamic Iran. We shall soon witness, with God's help, the victory of the army of Islam over the infidels and Saddam's end.

KURDISH LEADER ON TIES WITH IRANIANS, IRAQIS

LD150955 Paris LE MONDE in French 12 Dec 80 p 6

[Eric Rouleau interview with Kordestan Democratic Party Secretary General 'Abdol Rahman Qasemlu in Paris: "The 'Secret' War of Iranian Kordestan--Part I: Mr Qasemlu's Strategy"--date not given]

[Text] As far as the Iranians are concerned 'Abdol Rahman Qasemlu no longer exists. The leaders are ignoring him; the press no longer prints his statements, which it published at length before the start of the Iranian-Iraqi war. Foreign journalists are not allowed either to visit Kordestan--theater of a war which is being carefully concealed from the public--nor even to communicate with the Islamic Republic's western province by telephone.

The Kordestan Democratic Party [KDP] secretary general is, in fact, regarded as a "traitor" both by the authorities and by most political parties whether rightwing or left-wing, Muslim or Marxist. What is his crime? Unlike so many others, he has refused to unconditionally join the "national liberation war" against the Iranians [as published, presumably Iraqis intended]. Worse still, he is pursuing and stepping up the guerrilla warfare against the government forces, thereby weakening their defensive capability in the face of the Baghdad army.

Mr Qasemlu recently left his secret headquarters in the Kordestan mountains, notably in order to be able to reply to his critics better. "World opinion," he told us while passing through Paris, "is entitled to know why the Kurdish people are forced to pursue the struggle to obtain their right to autonomy. The reason for this is simple: We have no choice."

During the interview which he granted us 'Abdol Rahman Qasemlu scarcely touched on the root of the problem dividing him from Tehran, the extent of the territory which he is demanding (inhabited by various ethnic groups aside from the Kurds) or the scope of the parliamentary , executive, economic and financial powers which he intends to give the future autonomous province which, according to him, should control the security forces. "They have never wanted to negotiate seriously," he repeated, "but we have no cause to complain; we now have more than we were asking them for and the day will come when a man like Bani-Sadr will come to us to seek autonomy!"

"Lay Down Our Arms? Never!"

The KDP secretary general grew serious once again and stated, hammering out his words: "Negotiate, yes, provided they are willing to do so, but lay down our arms, never!" That is precisely one of the disputed points which led to the resignation last June of seven members of the party's central committee, including Qani Polurian, who thinks that the armed struggle is "illusory" as a means of solving the Kurdish problem.

The Tudeh communists, the feda'iyan and other parties add to this objection the criticism that continuing the guerrilla war in these circumstances "endangers the homeland and the republic." To that Mr Qasemlu replied:

"The homeland is not an abstract notion. Of course, if necessary we will defend Iran's territory and independence. However, it is not up to us to protect the Islamic Republic--an antipeople, antidemocratic regime, a regime which oppresses all the peoples living under its yoke, a regime of mullahs which has confiscated for its benefit a revolution for which the Kurds shed torrents of blood alongside all Iran's other peoples. We remain faithful to our slogan: 'Autonomy for the Kurds, democracy for all Iranians.' That is the raison d'etre of our struggle. We dispute the argument put forward by pseudo-Marxists that we should side with Khomeyni's anti-imperialist struggle. That is ridiculous. In practice, Khomeyni has done nothing to root out foreign influence, unless you regard the hostages' seizure as a more significant action in this respect than recognizing the Kurdish people's right to freedom and autonomy!"

At the end of the fourth KDP congress held in February this year under Mr Qasemlu's chairmanship, resolutions were passed recognizing the "anti-imperialist" nature of the Islamic Republic's policy, inspired and led by Imam Khomeyni," and calling on the Kurdish people to defend the Tehran regime. Five months later, on 8 July 1980, Mr Qasemlu subscribed to similar pledges in a joint communique signed with the people's feda'iyan. Has he changed his opinion since then?

"It is the feda'iyan, not us, who have reversed their attitude," the Kurdish leader replied. "They accused us, 1 year ago, of seeking a compromise with the Tehran government which they described as pro-American and which they have considered to be anti-imperialist since last summer. We have still not launched their former command to overthrow the regime, although we consider it to be reactionary and medieval. On the military plane we have, since the beginning of the Iranian-Iraqi war, merely defended ourselves against the assaults launched by the forces of order and we only moved onto the offensive 1 month ago. Nonetheless, we are convinced that the Khomeyni regime is doomed to vanish whether we support it or not. It is rotten to the core...."

[Question] Iraqi Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani implicitly criticized you last week by saying that pursuing the guerrilla war is likely to help introduce in Tehran "a military regime which would end the Iranian Kurdish people's legitimate aspirations to autonomy for a long time to come." What do you think of that?

[Answer] Our Iraqi Kurdish brothers have opinions and a strategy and we have ours. We hope that they will not interfere in our affairs just as we are not interfering in theirs.... In any case it does not seem self-evident to us that the army would take power. Of all the existing political forces the only one whose influence prevails on a national scale is that of the Mojahedin-e Khalq, which has the dual merit of being Muslim and leftwing.

[Question] The leaders of the Tehran Kurds association, which you previously counted among your supporters, nonetheless maintain that your attitude will inevitably lead to disaster whether Iraq or Iran wins the present war. The Iranians will not forget your desertion, they say; and the Iraqis, despite the service you are doing them, will do all they can to prevent you from obtaining autonomy....

[Answer] In either of the cases mentioned the repression could not be worse than it is now. However, our critics are mistaken about the Iranian people's feelings toward us since the silent majority, hostile to Khomeyni, understands us. We condemned Iraq for having sparked off the hostilities but we hold Iran responsible for the war.

Indeed it is the mullahs' regime which made repeated provocations, which advocated exporting the revolution, which called on the Iraqis to rebel against their government and which sparked off the border incidents. Our critics among the pseudo-Marxists also say that the Baghdad regime is fascist--I do not know how they reach that conclusion--but they forget that the Soviet Union described it as anti-imperialist. Therefore, why is our attitude reprehensible in their eyes?

[Question] You are accused of receiving arms from Iraqi, of giving allegiance to that country, as General Barzani formerly did to Iran under the Pahlavis....

[Answer] The two situations are fundamentally different. Two principles which General Barzani did not follow govern our relations with foreign states, including Iraq: The first consists of diversifying our sources of supply so that if one of them dries up we will not be left vulnerable; second, we do not accept any aid which might damage Kurds wherever they reside, in this case the Kurds in Iraq, Turkey and the Soviet Union with which we have common borders. Contrary to what our enemies claim, we support any Kurdish movement outside Iran which asks for our support. Baghdad knows that quite well. All in all Iraq is just as dependent on us as we are on it.

[Question] What is the nature of your relations with the Iraqi Government?

[Answer] We think that any relations based on the two principles I have just spelled out are legitimate. Nonetheless, we are well supplied with weapons which we have captured from the Iranian Army's arsenals, but we lack munitions and especially air defense missiles.... Iraq, for its part, says that it is prepared to support any opposition groups....

[Question] Do you have relations with those groups?

[Answer] We cooperate with some of them, notably with the KMALA (Maoists--Rouleau note) and Sheykh Ezzedin Hoseyni. On the other hand, we will never cooperate with General Oveysi (royalist--Rouleau note) who was one of the Kurdish people's persecutors under the shah. As for Mr Bakhtiar, I have never met him--with all due respect to the Tudeh which never misses an opportunity for slander--although I feel entitled, as leader of a political party, to talk with any opponent of Khomeyni's regime. This is especially so since Mr Bakhtiar is a popular man in Iran, he has supporters within the Islamic army and, above all, has just, for the first time, spoken out in favor of the autonomy of what he calls the "population" of Kordestan.... Attitudes are changing and the future is promising. [answer ends]

While the KDP secretary general did not say so, the match is probably being played more in the field than on a strictly political plane. The question is whether the Islamic Republic is or is not capable of winning the war while fighting on two fronts.

KURDISH MUSLIM ASKS KURDS TO HELP FIGHT IRAQ

JN140822 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0620 GMT 14 Dec 80

[Excerpts] Shaykh Ma'mum al-Husayn, a Kurdish man of religion in Iraq, has recounted the agent Ba'thist regime's crimes against the Muslim people in Iraq.

Referring to the Ba'th Party's objectives, Shaykh al-Husayn said: Though the Ba'th Party raises slogans of [words indistinct] freedom and socialism, it pays no attention [words indistinct] because Islam is against nationalism and racism.

Shaykh al-Husayn added: Several times I have heard the Ba'thists say that 1 Arab infidel Ba'thist is better than 1,000 non-Arab Muslims.

That is why the Ba'thists have held numerous conferences in Baghdad to study how to fight Islam and eradicate it from Iraq. As everyone knows, they killed the esteemed Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Badri, who opposed the Ba'th Party and was martyred in the cells of this infidel clique.

Shaykh Husayn called on the Muslims to remain committed to unity and Islam in order to repulse Islam's enemies such as the 'Aflaqi Ba'th Party.

In conclusion, Shaykh al-Husayn called on the brother Muslims in Kordestan to help the Islamic Republic in its jihad to destroy Islam's enemies.

BAQER AL-HAKIM RECEIVES IRAQI KURDISH ULEMA

JN150616 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 15 Dec 80

[Text] PARS reports that a delegation of Iraqi Kurdish Sunni ulema met yesterday with Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad Baqer al-Hakim. The discussion during the meeting revolved around the imperialist plots to split Shi'ites and Sunnis. Al-Hakim said that infidel imperialism is always sabotaging the Muslim countries, whose peoples worship one god only, take Islam as their faith and believe in the prophecy of Muhammad, God bless him and grant him salvation.

He added: We see today how the imperialist countries are, hand-to-hand, trying to crush the Islamic revolution in Iran, and how they wished to achieve their satanic objectives by imposing an economic blockade against the Iranian Muslims. When that failed, they instigated their agent, infidel Saddam, to wage his war against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The planes of infidel lackey Saddam are now bombing in a cowardly fashion the mosques and hospitals and even the kindergartens.

AL-HAKIM RETURNS TO TEHRAN, REPORTS ON FRONTS

GF151428 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Dec 80

[Excerpt] Following his return from the battlefront in the south, Mohammad Baqer al-Hakim said in a statement to PARS that the morale of Islam's heroes confronting the infidel enemy is high. Baqer al-Hakim praised Iraqi mujahidin who have declared their full readiness to participate in the war of survival against the Iraqi agent regime. He added that the mujahidin are waiting for the appropriate moment to deal a fatal blow to the decaying regime.

Al-Hakim said the Iranian Arab brothers on the battlefront who are defending their Islamic homeland with all their might, those who courageously confronted the attacks of the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries and inflicted heavy losses on the infidel enemy forces, enjoy very high morale.

Asked his opinion on agent Saddam's attacks, the knowledgeable scholar said that during his meetings with Khuzestani brothers he stressed two points: first, the situation inside Iraq and the Saddam infidel regime's suppressive measures against the oppressed Iraqi people and all groups and parties in Iraq; second, the vile goals which Saddam is trying to achieve in the region, and particularly in Khuzestan. Al-Hakim added that he explained to the Khuzestani citizens the necessity of patience and resistance in order to confront these imperialist plots. Al-Hakim said the citizens welcomed and fully understood his explanation of the two points.

TEHRAN REPORTS ON OPERATIONS, SITUATION IN IRAQ

Commando Operations

LD131748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau, clashes are still continuing on various western fronts.

These clashes intensified this morning on the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab front. During a series of heroic operations by the brothers of the armed forces and the Islamic revolution guards last night and this morning, three enemy tanks and four ammunition carriers were destroyed in the Kur-e Mush region. Twelve Iraqi mercenaries were killed or wounded.

In the (Bayjar region), the brothers of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic, enjoying artillery support and the cooperation of the imam's devotees, inflicted heavy losses on the mercenaries of Saddam at-Tikriti. Engagements were intensified beginning at 0400 today on this front, during which the Islamic combatants killed 10 mercenaries and destroyed 2 enemy vehicles near the Iraqi garrison of [name indistinct].

The report also states that clashes at the Sumar front continued last night. The valiant Islamic fighters inflicted considerable losses and casualties on the enemy in this region. So far no report concerning the enemy's exact losses has been received. At the same front four Iranian Army personnel were martyred.

PARS, citing a spokesman of the headquarters of the country's western tribal mobilization, reports that a group stationed at Gilan-e Gharb, which includes members of the Kalhor and Jalalvand tribes, infiltrated Iraqi territory and mounted a commando operation which resulted in the destruction of two enemy ammunition carriers and other heavy losses and casualties for Saddam's forces. The group returned to its base following this successful operation.

PARS, citing an Islamic revolution guards spokesman, reports that a group of self-sacrificing guards in the Shur-e Shirin region infiltrated Iraqi territory on 8 December and mined Iraqi roads which were being used for the transport of weaponry and foodstuffs to the fronts. Following this operation 11 Iraqi trucks carrying ammunition and personnel were destroyed by mines. The Iraqis have suffered heavy losses and casualties. The self-sacrificing guards returned to their bases safely.

Navy, Marine Desertions

JN132135 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1850 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Excerpts] Under the title "Iranian Marines Begin Their Duties in Khuninshahr," the evening newspaper KEYHAN published a report from its correspondent on the southern front. The report says that at a time when the aggressor Iraqi regime alleges that it has occupied Abadan and that its forces have crossed the Bahmanshir River, a group of foreign journalists and correspondents toured the battlefronts of Abadan, Bahmanshir and the eastern bank of Arvand Rud last Thursday.

The same report says that a number of Iraqi naval NCO's and marines who were positioned on the coastal border regions detached themselves from the enemy forces and left for an unknown destination.

Sources add that the Kuwaiti Coast Guard has recently found the bodies of 86 Iraq militarymen floating in the Kuwaiti coastal waters. Six of them were wounded. The Kuwaiti Coast Guard collected the bodies and moved them to a hospital in Kuwait.

Attack on Food Column

LD140412 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0345 GMT 14 Dec 80

[Text] Quoting informed sources, PARS reports from Kermanshah that during a guerrilla operation last night, the opposers of the Baghdad regime attacked a column carrying ammunition and food belonging to Saddam's mercenary forces and destroyed two vehicles carrying food and ammunition; another vehicle, whose driver had lost control, overturned.

Kurdish Operations

JN140735 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 Dec 80

[Excerpt] Travelers arriving in Kuwait say that Muslim Kurdish peshmerga in northern Iraq have escalated their military operations. Peshmerga combatant units have carried out several operations against the party headquarters in As-Sulaymaniyah, Panjwin and other Kurdish cities. The peshmerga have killed officials of the infidel regime including commissioner Mani' ash-Shuja' and another traitor.

The courageous military operations carried out by the Kurdish mujahidin are in accord with the requirements of the present stage of the Islamic movement in Iraq in seeking to escalate revolutionary action against the infidel regime, overthrow it and then establish an Islamic government.

It is to be recalled that 'Ubaydallah al-Barzani, minister of state in Saddam Husayn's regime who participated in the comedy of the so-called autonomous rule, had been killed by the Ba'thist clique and his body found in a car on the Iraqi-Syrian border [words indistinct] Kurds returning to Iraq following the March 1975 agreement.

The travelers also say that the (As-Samawah) public security director had been killed in an ambush by Iraqi mujahidin in accordance with their plan to liquidate the agents and security men of the infidel regime.

Ad-Da'wah Party Statement

GF141430 Abadan NIOC Radio in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Dec 80

[Statement issued by Iraqi Ad-Da'wah Party on 13 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. And they hated them because they believed in God, the Almighty, the praiseworthy.

With the escalation of heroic operations by the victorious army of Islam, and with the storming of the positions of the infidel Ba'thist enemy and the widespread Islamic revolutionary activities against the criminal puppet regime in Iraq, the tyrant regime has launched a wide-scale campaign of executions against the heroic mujahidin inside its prisons jammed with detainees. Our reliable sources in bleeding Iraq report that the new campaign included 500 sons of our Muslim nation.

This pure blood has been shed by the Iraqi despot for no sin, but only because these faithful martyrs said "God is our god" and stood firm in their steadfastness. They didn't straddle the fence upon seeing the country ruled by iron and fire.

We call on all Muslims and our brothers and kinsmen in Iraq to invoke God's ire against this corrupt clique in our bleeding Iraq. The tree of the great Islam will spring forth from the pure blood of our martyrs. We pledge to God and our faithful martyrs that we will continue our march until we avenge ourselves against all despots and criminals. It is a struggle until victory or martyrdom.

[Signed] The Islamic Ad-Da'wah Party, 13 December 1980

PALESTINIANS, SOVIETS FAIL TO SUPPORT IRAQ

JN151108 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0815 GMT 15 Dec 80

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] It is obvious that Iraq's dinars have influenced some agent newspapers and magazines. It is also obvious that these dinars managed to proceed along this course despite Saddam's lies and falsehood.

One of these agent papers has reported that the Palestinian revolution has declared its support for Iraq. A few days later, however, Abu al-Walid [Sa'd Sayil] PLO Central Committee member, denied these allegations. In a statement to Damascus TISHRIN, which was reported by the Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS on 19 October 1980, Abu al-Walid said that the Palestinian revolution's efforts are now centered on confronting any Israeli operation in southern Lebanon. He added that volunteers from the Islamic Republic of Iran are being trained alongside the Palestinians.

The claim that the Palestinian revolution is supporting the Iraqi regime is baseless. The Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said that the Iraqi aggression is an imperialist plot aimed at stamping out the revolutionary presence in the area. This course was also pursued by the other resistance factions. Even the Soviet Union failed to honor its commitments under the 9 April 1972 agreement, based on reports from Baghdad and Moscow. This is because the Soviet Union believes that the Saddam regime is the aggressor.

As for the revolutionary and progressive regimes in the world, these staged marches supporting the Islamic Republic of Iran and condemning the Ba'thist regime.

ETTELA'AT SUMS UP IRAQI LOSSES FROM OUTSET OF WAR

JN142019 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1835 GMT 14 Dec 80

[Text] ETTELA'AT has highlighted total Iraqi losses since the treacherous Iraqi regime launched its blasphemous aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran in its daily front page list. The list mentions that Iraq's losses have totalled 2,005 fighters; 21 helicopters; 2,607 tanks, tracked vehicles and armored vehicles; 47 rocket launchers; 1,730 various military trucks and vehicles; and 703 heavy guns and [word indistinct].

Iraq's losses at sea are 27 military naval vessels, 2 tugboats and 8 ships loaded with military hardware. This is in addition to the losses Iraq has sustained inside its own land. These included 346 military bases, oil and economic installations [word indistinct].

AFP: BOMBING OF IRAQI OIL FACILITIES TO INCREASE

LD151750 Paris AFP in English 1744 GMT 15 Dec 80

[Text] Tehran, 15 Dec (AFP)--Iranian warplanes have stepped up operations against Iraqi oil installations and will continue these operations until "the economy of the Baghdad regime crumbles", Army Chief of Staff General Valliollah Fallahi said here today.

Gen Fallahi told a press conference that the bombing was in retaliation for Iraqi Air Force attacks on Iranian oil installations.

However, he added, the Iranian planes were not attacking any civilian targets, even power stations, "so as not to harm the Iraqi people".

The general affirmed that all economic and military targets in Iran were now "strongly defended by anti-aircraft forces" and that every time Iraqi warplanes entered Iranian airspace, more than 50 percent of them were shot down.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES 337, 338

337: Clashes in West

LD141816 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1640 GMT 14 Dec 80

[Communique 337 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Dear and Muslim Iranian compatriots: Battles have continued over the past 48 hours on most of the western fronts between the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the guards corpsmen and armed people and the aggressive and mercenary forces of the Iraqi Army. The intensify of clashes in the west of the country has been greatest on the Shur-e Shirin, (Kan-e Sakht) heights and Konjancham fronts.

At 1845 yesterday, enemy artillery directed its fire on our forces' positions in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region. The artillery of the combatants of the Ground Forces of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran returned the fire and the enemy was forced to cease its fire.

As a result of artillery fire of the combatants of Islam on the Abadan and Mared fronts yesterday, blows were struck at the aggressive enemy; accurate figures of enemy losses are not available. On another front in Abadan region, the combatants of the ground forces destroyed one enemy ammunition depot and one truck.

The combatants of the ground forces yesterday dispatched patrol teams west of Dezful who destroyed two enemy munition depots, one troop carrier, several trucks and a number of trenches of the Iraqi Armed Forces. They were also able to kill a number of enemy personnel.

Yesterday, the infidel mercenaries and infernal Saddamis continued their shameless and satanical actions, and brought part of Dezful city and Ahvaz under their long-range artillery shelling. As a result, a number of our dear compatriots, the old and children, were either martyred or wounded in Dezful. In Ahvaz, two shops and two houses were destroyed; one person was martyred and another injured.

The Saddam at-Tikriti mercenaries do not realize that the consequences of these crimes will fall upon themselves, for, according to information received, Iraqi Army desertion is increasing daily, and Saddam's mercenaries have devoted some of their activities to controlling the movement of the Muslim military personnel in the Iraqi Armed Forces.

At 1630 on 12 December, as a result of the fire of the combatants of the Ground Forces of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a number of enemy vehicles and equipment were set on fire on the western front; fire and smoke rising from enemy positions could be seen for a long time afterward. One Iraqi mercenary observation post was also destroyed, and as a result of the artillery fire of the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran heavy losses were inflicted on Iraqi Army mercenaries in Umm ar-Rasas, Kut az-Zeyn and Allaho Akbar heights. The severity of the blows struck was so great that the enemy was forced to abandon some positions and pull back.

In the (Darvaresh) region in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area, three Muslim soldiers and one officer of the Iraqi Army reported to the Iranian Armed Forces, and they were warmly welcomed. Other blows that the Iraqi mercenary army has suffered over the past 48 hours are as follows:

The self-sacrificing combatants of the army aircorps of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the western front destroyed one enemy tank and several trenches, and killed a number of personnel of the mercenary Iraqi Armed Forces.

On the Ahvaz front, they destroyed two enemy tanks, one antiaircraft gun and several trenches. The number of casualities inflicted on the enemy could not be ascertained because of poor visibility. On the western fronts, a number of Iraqi Army mercenaries were killed by the army air crops combatants and a quantity of enemy equipment was also set on fire. On the Mehran front, several artillery positions and one observation bunker, as well as several enemy vehicles, were destroyed by artillery fire. On the Anvaz front, artillery shelling of enemy positions destroyed three enemy tanks, three vehicles and one observation post, as well as several Iraqi Army trenches.

On other fronts, because of heavy dust in the air and the resultant poor visibility, the extent of losses inflicted on the enemy has not yet been ascertained.

According to reports received, as a result of regular and accurate fire from the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the morale of the aggressive Iraqi Army is being destroyed and broken every day and enemy morale is extremely weak.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

338: Battle Successes

LD151848 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1651 GMT 15 Dec 80

[Communique 338 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Vigilant and Muslim nation of Iran: Your combative brothers in the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with the cooperation of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and other popular forces, are sacrificing their lives in defense of our Islamic homeland, Iran, and are bravely creating epics. Some of the operations of these self-sacrificing forces, according to reports during the past 24 hours, are as follows:

1. This morning, 15 December, Ilam forces opened artillery fire on the enemy positions in the region of Kut al-Bandar and destroyed the observation building [word indistinct] of the enemy and as a result the Iraqi observation personnel were forced to retreat.

2. Also this morning, as a result of the artillery fire of the units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, one tank, two trucks and several squad trenches of the Iraqi invading forces were destroyed on the Abadan front and some losses were inflicted on them.

3. Iraqi mercenary forces opened artillery fire on Susangerd this morning and the brave warriors of Islam returned their fire valiantly.

4. Fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran attacked enemy forces in the region of Khuninhbhar and along the Abadan-Mahshahr highway, inflicting losses on them.

5. Yesterday, artillery fire of the defending forces of Islam, on the Ahvaz front, destroyed two cannon, one anti-aircraft gun, five tanks, one loader, and one missile launcher of the enemy. Two mechanical shovels were burnt down completely and four mechanical shovels were damaged and stopped operating. Forty personnel of the Iraqi mercenary forces were killed.

6. On the Sumar front, the combative warriors of the Airborne Division and units of the ground forces yesterday destroyed two tanks, six concrete trenches and one Iraqi vehicle. They also killed 30 Iraqi mercenaries and wounded more than 15 of them.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

REPORTAGE ON SITUATION, FIGHTING IN SOUTH

Military Activity in Khuninshahr

LD140458 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0346 GMT 14 Oct 80

[Text] According to PARS, reporting from the frontline in Khuninshahr, from the night before last until yesterday afternoon, the brave warriors of Islam, including the revolution guards corps, navy, army and the popular forces, engaged in intense light and heavy weapons fire on this front, as a result, the enemy suffered losses and damages.

On another front in the east of Khuninshahr, intense shelling was in progress between the marines of Islam and those deceived by Saddam from Friday afternoon until 1700 yesterday; during these clashes, a number of trenches were destroyed and six of the infidel forces were annihilated.

The (?snipers) of the forces of Islam killed two enemy lookouts. According to PARS, at 0200 yesterday an enemy concentration in the west of Khuninshahr was set ablaze by our intense shelling; the flames were visible from a distance for hours. According to the same report, intense shelling continued until 1700 along the fronts in the east of Khuninshahr.

Also, quoting an informed source, the Central News Bureau reports from Abadan: During yesterday's battles, two enemy military vehicles and one ammunition dump were set ablaze on one of Abadan's fronts, as a result of the artillery fire of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and burned for hours.

In addition, two group bunkers and a number of individual bunkers were destroyed and a number of soldiers deceived by the infidel regime of Iraq were killed. During these attacks, the forces defending Islam suffered one martyred and one wounded.

Victories on Susangerd Front

LD140510 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0348 GMT 14 Dec 80

[Text] A Central News Bureau correspondent, quoting an informed military source in Susangerd, reports: Yesterday, in Susangerd, on the (Sa'd an-Hamudi) front, about 20 members of an enemy reconnaissance team were killed as a result of our forces' artillery fire; an enemy vehicle was also destroyed.

Also, quoting the operations commander of the Susangerd guards corps, the Central News Bureau reports: During guerrilla operations in the west of Susangerd on Friday, the guards were able to destroy one (PNP) personnel carrier, one tank and two battery trenches and kill a large number of Saddam's mercenaries. Due to the darkness there are no accurate accounts of the enemy losses.

According to the operations commander of the Susangerd guards corps, after the surprise attack by the guards, the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with full coordination, brought enemy positions under long-range artillery fire for hours.

Also, according to PARS, the Khuzestan relief and treatment headquarters has announced the number of wounded on the Ahvaz and Susangerd fronts who had been transferred to the hospitals in Ahvaz last Friday as seven.

Shelling of Abadan

LD132110 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau report, the mercenary Iraqi Armed Forces' batteries shelled Abadan's bazaar and residential sectors yesterday, in the course of which 67 were injured and 8 were martyred. The bazaar and some buildings suffered damage.

According to another report by PARS, the artillery of Islam last night destroyed one enemy tank and two trucks along the Abadan-Mahshahr road, and four Iraqis were killed and a number injured.

According to another report by PARS and the Central News Bureau, the helicopter gunships of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic today mounted fire on the 'Arafat observation tower, as a result of which the tower's cabin was completely destroyed.

Fighting on Abadan Fronts

LD141734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Dec 80

[Text] According to a PARS report, heavy exchange of fire between Islam's combatants and the mercenary Iraqi Armed Forces was in progress last night and today on the Abadan fronts.

This report indicates that during the battles of last night and today a total of three tanks, two ammunition dumps, one ammunition truck, one heavy vehicle, four trucks, four personnel and heavy weaponry trenches, and one enemy ammunition position were destroyed. A number of the Iraqi mercenaries were also killed. In these battles two Islamic combatants were martyred and another two wounded.

PARS also reported that following the savage Iraqi attacks yesterday on the residential quarters of the city of Dezful, the Iraqi mercenaries once again attacked Dezful with their artillery this morning, as a result of which one person was martyred and another injured. Khuzestan's relief and treatment headquarters told a PARS correspondent that in the Iraqi mercenaries' mortar attack on the residential quarters of Ahvaz, three citizens of Ahvaz were martyred.

Abadan Motorboatowners Called

GF151641 Abadan NIOC Radio in Persian 1629 GMT 15 Dec 80

[Text] All motorboatowners operating from Abadan are requested to contact telephone number 23185 immediately. Any who do not report will be prosecuted according to wartime regulations. [message is repeated]

Ahvaz Red Alerts

GF131204 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1159 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Text] This is Ahvaz, Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Dear listeners, please pay attention. The siren you are about to hear denotes red alert conditions. An air raid is imminent. [sound of siren]

[Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian repeats this announcement at the following times: 1445 and 1516 GMT on 13 December; 1035 and 1141 GMT on 14 December; and 1341 and 1549 GMT on 15 December]

Residential District Shelled

LD131818 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Text] PARS has reported that the Baghdad regime deported another 85 Muslim people of that country through the Ilam border today. These people, who had been released in the western desert of the country on a cold and rainy day of winter, arrived in Ilam today and were provided with relief measures by the commanders of the city.

According to the PARS report, international correspondents, who were visiting the war fronts in the southern part of the country to make films and prepare reports of the crimes committed by Iraqi mercenaries, this afternoon arrived in Ahvaz on their way from Abadan. After a short stay in Ahvaz, these reporters left for Tehran. During this short stop, the Iraqi blasphemous mercenaries continued their shameful acts and once again opened mortar fire on residential districts of Ahvaz. Foreign reporters witnessed this savage and beastly crime.

On the basis of the same report, as a result of the explosion of the Iraqi mercenaries' mortars, 3 were martyred and 13 were wounded and taken to Ahvaz hositals. This report indicates that mortar fire on residential districts of Ahvaz was still continuing when this report was sent, that is 1800.

Need for Mechanics

GF131827 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Text] The department of political ideology of the Ahvaz 92d Armored Division has announced that brother mechanics are needed to repair military vehicles. The following types of mechanics are needed: mechanics for heavy and light vehicles, [words indistinct], welders, ironsmiths and radiator makers. All mechanics are requested to report to the headquarters of the Ahvaz 92d Armored Division.

Dezful Shelled

LD131720 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1649 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Text] According to Central News Bureau and PARS correspondents' reports from Dezful, this morning the Iraqi mercenaries opened artillery fire on residential districts of Dezful. Enemy long-range artillery fire caused heavy losses are damage on one of this city's busy streets.

At 1803 the governor of Dezful contacted PARS and announced that this tragic crime of Saddam's blasphemous mercenaries left 53 martyrs and 112 wounded. Damages to property were reported as two stores, two cars and one motorcycle.

Friday Prayers in Abadan

GF131130 Abadan NIOC Radio in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Text] Friday prayers were held in Abadan--the city of steadfastness and sacrifice--yesterday, Friday, and were led by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Shaykh Jami. The prayers were attended by a large congregation that included all strata of the Muslim people, ulema, clergymen and the military.

In his first sermon during the Friday prayers Hojjat ol-Estlam Jami condemned some of the countries of the area for their support for the Iraqi regime in its aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran. He called on the Muslim Iraqi people to deal a fatal blow to the collapsing Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

In his Friday sermon the Abadan Friday imam thanked foreign correspondents who came to visit the battlefronts in Abadan and Khuninshahr. They took part in the Friday prayers. Hojjat ol-Eslam Jami said: We do not want you to carry to the world reports in our favor. What we want from you is what Imam Khomeyni asked of you: Report to the world all the savage bombardment you see by Iraqi planes and artillery of schools, hospitals and residential areas, so that the peoples of the world will be aware of what the infidel Iraqi regime is doing.

At the end of the prayers the congregation chanted "our uprising will continue until the revolution of the imam hahdi even if they bombard us day and night."

Warning on Imposters

GF131825 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Text] The public relations department of the Khuzestan central committee has announced that members of a group, taking advantage of the war situation, are introducing themselves as committee guards and taking money from people. Citizens are asked to request identification whenever they are confronted by such individuals.

TEHRAN REPORTS VICTORIES IN WESTERN FRONT BATTLES

12 Dec Roundup

LD121918 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1643 GMT 12 Dec 80

[Text] According to reports by correspondents of the Central News Bureau and PARS, quoting the tribal mobilization headquarters of the west of the country and the gendarmerie of Kermanshah, last night several so-called Iraqi commandos landed in different places, on the heights of the Rijab region, from three Iraqi helicopters. From the start of their operations these Iraqi mercenaries were confronted with the brave firing of the gendarmerie and other defenders of the Islamic revolution. Of this group of Iraqis, 4 were killed and 29 were wounded, and the pursuit of Saddam's mercenaries was carried deep into the heart of enemy positions.

During these operations the commander of the Iraqi forces, named 'Abd al-Jahad Usuf, from Basra, was killed and his body was left behind. Only one of our brother gendarmes was wounded.

Reports from the correspondent of the Central News Bureau from western fronts of the country indicate that the combative forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, during an intense battle at dawn this morning on the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Qasr-e Shirin fronts, inflicted considerable blows on the blasphemous enemy. During these operations 4 tents of ammunition of the Iraqi aggressors were destroyed and 12 mercenaries were killed. Soldiers of Islam did not suffer any losses in this battle.

On the basis of this report, on the Rijab front the combatants of the corps of Islam, who are fighting against blasphemy, in coordination with one another, at the early hours of this morning launched a series of epic operations and, with the backing of artillery, succeeded in killing several members of the forces of blasphemy. They also destroyed several military vehicles of the enemy together with their servicemen.

The same report indicates that two of the valiant personnel of the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran were martyred.

The correspondent of the Central News Bureau was told by an informed official on this front that the combative personnel of the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are enjoying very high morale and they will never forget the selfless assistance of the people toward annihilation of the enemies of the Islamic revolution.

An intense battle is also continuing between the corps of Islam and the division of blasphemy on the Sumar front from this morning and the combatants of the guards corps, during a praiseworthy partisan operation were able to destroy four heavy vehicles and several ammunition-carrying vehicles of the enemy; they also killed 20 mercenaries of Saddam Tikriti. During these operations, three self-sacrificing brother guards gained the honorable rank of martyrdom. On the basis of the same report, clashes on the Gilan-e Gharb front also continue fiercely and the combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with the support of artillery fire, during a calculated operation destroyed several heavy vehicles of the enemy. Two tents of ammunition of the enemy were also destroyed and the smoke rising from the explosion of the ammunition could be seen until lunch-time today. Our correspondent continues his report by adding: During this clash, the self-sacrificing personnel of the corps of Islam dealt heavy blows at the aggressive enemy by killing 17 mercenaries of Saddam. Two defenders of Islam also gained the exalted rank of martyrdom on the Gilan-e Gharb front.

PARS also reported: A group of self-sacrificing personnel of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Ilam, with the cooperation of gendarmerie combatants, during operations on the Dehloran front, succeeded in destroying two mortar launching positions of the enemy and killing Iraqi mercenaries.

13 Dec Wrapup

LD130502 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Text] PARS reports from the fronts in the west of the country indicate battles between the brave ones of the Islamic Republic and the Iraqi mercenaries yesterday.

In spite of rain in Ilam, fighting continued throughout the day on the fronts in Sumar, Zaleh Zard, Kani-Sakht, Dehloran, Shur-Shirin, (Artvagin), Malekshahi and the Konjam Cham Dam Heights.

On the Kani-Sakht and Shur-Shirin fronts, an artillery battle raged between the army of Islam and the forces of blasphemy. During these operations, the forces of Islam maintained their firepower superiority and initiative.

On the Malekshahi Heights, sporadic clashes and exchanges of fire occurred, resulting in the enemy suffering casualties and damages.

According to these reports, in the Dehloran region, battle was in progress between the revolution guards corps and the mercenaries of Saddam at-Tikriti, during which eight of the mercenaries were killed and nine were wounded; one enemy 120-mm mortar was captured. The guards of Islam did not suffer any casualties.

On the Shmar front, the guards of the Islamic revolution embarked on face-to-face battle with the enemy, while enjoying artillery fire support. Consequently they destroyed five enemy trenches and killed and wounded between 15 and 22 of the aggressors. Also according to reports received, the warriors of Islam on the Sar-e Pol-e Zahas, Gilam-e Charr and Rijab fronts inflicted casualties and damages on the enemy.

On the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab front, the defenders of the Islamic revolution--in a guerrilla operation--destroyed 4 ammunition tents, 1 group bunker and 5 nearby bunkers, and 1 vehicle belonging to the enemy and killed and wounded 15 of Saddam's mercenaries and captured 6 of them.

On the Gilan-e Gharb front, face-to-face and trench-to-trench battles continued with artillery support from the army of Islam, during which 19 of the infidels were killed and wounded and Saddam's forces suffered extensive damages. In exchange, the criminal mercenaries brought the city's residential areas under Katusha rocket fire.

On the Rijab front, following the neutralizing of operations by the Iraqi commandoes and their subsequent flight, the guards of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni's Feda'i-yan tribal mobilization forces and the army killed five of the infidel forces in a night assault.

Also, quoting informed sources on the Iran-Iraq border, PARS reported: Yesterday, Iraqi mojahedin succeeded in destroying five vehicles belonging to the mercenary forces and killed their occupants inside Iraq.

Night Raid Near Sumar

LD141730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Dec 80

[Text] A PARS correspondent at 1915 tonight reported to Eslamabad from the Sumar front that today 30 Islamic combatants penetrated with full battle gear right into the heart of the enemy and fought with enemy forces trench-by-trench. One team managed to destroy a number of enemy tanks. According to the report, another team was surrounded by enemy forces for several hours but, thanks to its steadfastness and courage, the siege was broken and it was saved. The matter caused concern to the commander of the Sumar front for seven hours. Fortunately, however, the team members, thanks to the courage they displayed, were not only not harmed but inflicted casualties and losses to enemy forces.

The PARS correspondent, who was preparing battle reports on this front for 6 hours, added that between 1000 and 1100 today three army air corps helicopters of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran provided support for the combat operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. On the Sumar and Zeleh Zar fronts they were able to inflict appreciable losses on the enemy. In the operations the Zeleh Zar front two tanks, one armored car and six concrete bunkers were destroyed by rocket fire, and a number of enemy forces fleeing in the face of the combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran were killed by 20mm machine gun fire.

Commando Operations

LD151838 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1644 GMT 15 Dec 80

[Excerpts] According to PARS, sporadic battles in the western part of the country are continuing and have intensified on some fronts. On the Gilan-e Gharb and (Zel-e Zard) fronts, air and land battles continued over the past 24-hour period and considerable losses and damages were inflicted on enemy forces. During these clashes, two tanks, one vehicle, six concrete trenches and one mortar launching trench of the enemy were destroyed and several personnel of the forces of blasphemy were killed.

On the basis of this report, during the past 24 hours fighting between the defending forces of the revoluton and Saddam's regime's mercenaries continued on the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Qasr-e Shirin, Dar Ballut and Rijab fronts. During this fighting guerrilla type operations were combined with artillery and mortar fire and that of other heavy weapons. There are no reports available on details.

On the Gilan-e Gharb front, one group, comprising army personnel and guards of the Islamic revolution and mobilization, during a series of commando-type operations, destroyed three enemy trenches and inflicted notable losses on the forces of blasphemy.

According to the commander of the oppressed mobilization forces of tribes in the west of the country, during these operations one of the personnel of the tribal mobilization forces was wounded.

During similar operations carried out in Dasht-e Zahab yesterday, some damage was inflicted on the enemy and one of our brothers from the tribal mobilization was martyred.

On the basis of another report dispatched to PARS from the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab front, today, an 18-man team of the Iraqi blasphemous forces came under seige by the combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran. One of the beseiged men was killed, one was captured and the others fled.

PARS also quoted Iraqi combative mojahedins that during a guerrilla operation by these combatants two communication bridges linking the border city of Khanaqin of Iraq with the central parts of this country were blown up. At the time of the explosion and destruction of these two bridges half an Iraqi tank company, which was passing through this route, was either destroyed or damaged.

SHIRAZ CITIZENS MARCH IN SUPPORT OF THEOCRACY

GF141730 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 13 Dec 80

[Text] Yesterday, in a massive procession that lasted for 2 hours, Shiraz citizens reiterated their pledge to the nation's imam, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and declared their support for the combatant clergy, the Constitution and the Islamic Majlis. The march was held in response to a call by Friday Imam Haj Seyyed Dastgheyb and revolutionary organizations and started from the Vakil mosque at 1030.

Thousands of men and women of Shiraz marched in orderly rows in the streets shouting slogans against the conspiracies of aliens, idle talkers and misguided individuals, pledging their wholehearted allegiance to the theocracy, combatant clergy, and the Islamic Majlis and Constitution. The participants marched along a route preplanned by the committee for Friday prayers and included members of 11 revolutionary organizations and the Islamic society who had asked people from different sections of society to join the march that concluded at the Jame' Atiq mosque in Shiraz. According to our reporter, the gathering was addressed by Ayatollah Eshraqi.

Citing Koranic quotations, Eshraqi stated that those who are dear to God and are blessed with divine love are not able to weaken him. Today this the issue (?to be discussed). God has promised us success and will render us victorious over all superpowers and hypocrites.

Eshraqi then referred to the analogy between Imam Khomeyni and 12th Shi'ite imam and said that the imam of the nation, Khomeyni the iconoclast, answering questions of the faithful in this regard, merely said that the hand of God is (?instrumental) in the revolution of the Iranian people. Ayatollah Eshraqi also stressed the need for sheltering and providing for the families of war refugees.

After Ayatollah Eshraqi's speech the Friday imam of Shiraz began his sermon. Ayatollah Dastgheyb said that the God of the universe is one and has no peer. This is the essence of monotheism. All praise and worship are for God almighty. As the Koran says, obey God and the prophet and those among you who are your leaders. He continued: In the absence of the Sahib'e Asr [12th Shi'ite imam] his deputy has authority. His deputy in the present stime is the great leader of our revolution, Imam Khomeyni, to whom obedience is obligatory. Disputing that leadership is blasphemy, anyone who wishes to consider himself equal to the imam is committing sacrilege and the people will forsake him.

The Friday imam added that the people brought about the revolution so that they would not be under duress of governments and cliques; they support only the government of God and the imam.

In his second sermon the Friday imam spoke about the problems facing the revolution in its aftermath. He said that after our great revolution and the advent of Islam the spirit of self-sacrifice in the people has increased to such an extent that it cannot be expressed. The contributions of our compatriots for the fighters in the war zone and the unity and brotherhood in the Islamic Republic are worthy of praise in every respect. At the end of his sermon the Friday imam discussed the lack of coordination and correlation between spiritualism and politics. He said that the two cannot be separated and are meaningless if divided.

A resolution with 10 clauses passed by the marchers was read out by the committee for procession. The resolution expresses support for theocracy and the combatant clergy and was greeted by shouts of "God is great" by the people. It was approved. In it eminent clergymen such as Mirza Shirazi, Sheykh (Fazlollah Jamaledin Asad Abadi) and (Modavvar) were praised and there are appeals of Hoseyn-Khoda [God's Hoseyn] and the great Khomeyni, spirit of God, who is the patron of the oppressed people of Iran. The people of Shiraz will not allow the history of monarchical rule to repeat itself. It was also stated in the resolution: We promise the imam that we will not allow the treachery of traitors to reach fruition. We will defend Islam, the clergy, the eternal protectors of Islam, and the theocracy as long as we live.

In the resolution the people of Shiraz refer to the theocracy as the manifestation of God's government on Earth and the continuation of the imamate in history. Obedience to the imam, the lawful deputy of the 12th imam, is obligatory on all as the Islamic way. It also expresses support for the combatant clergy and recognition of Sabbah Zanganeh, Shiraz representative to the assembly, while expressing hatred for the Esfahan representative. It asks the Islamic Majlis to answer the demands of the people. The people of Shiraz ask the president of the Islamic Republic to banish the deviant emancipated elements publicly.

In the resolution, the valor and sacrifice by the armed forces are lauded and the widespread measures of the Supreme Court welcomed. The Guardian Council is requested to avoid interference by any of the three branches of government in each other's jurisdictions.

In the end the resolution asks the Voice and Vision of Iran to broadcast a full account of the march and their demands. The resolution says: We request the united people and clergy to place the facts before the public and to delineate the attitude to be adopted toward rebellious and deviant elements in decrees by the imam. Trampling upon the Constitution, which is the price of the martyrs' blood, and indifference to the Majlis, which is the elixir of the revolution, by selfish and egotistical individuals will not be tolerated. Support the ideological cabinet of the crusading brother Raja'i and the revolutionary measures of the government. It may be noted that the full account of the procession has been broadcast by the Shiraz center of the Voice and Vision of Iran.

TEHRAN REPORTS MOJAHEDIN ATTACK ON KABUL AIRPORT

JN141130 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Dec 80

[Text] The Muslim Afghan mojahedin have launched an attack against Kabul Airport. During this operation, they killed several Soviet officers and soldiers and destroyed one tank and one personnel carrier. Reporting this, PARS cites the Afghan Islamic Party as saying that the Afghan revolutionaries, in other fedayeen operations, succeeded in killing the commander of the government's militia and his assistant in Sharan in Paktia Province. Another 14 Soviet soldiers were killed during an attack by the Afghan mohahedin on the Soviet forces in (Khawajeh) Village. The attack also resulted in the destruction of two tanks and one fuel tank belonging to the Soviet forces.

NEPAL

IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI VISITS KATMANDU

Airport Welcome, Initial Talks

BK121521 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 12 Dec 80

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister of Iraq Dr Sa'dun Hammadi arrived in Katmandu today on a 4-day friendly visit to Nepal. Foreign Minister K.B. Shai was on hand to receive his Iraqi counterpart at the Tribhuvan International Airport.

Visiting Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Sa'dun Hammadi held extensive talks on bilateral and major international issues, particularly the Middle East situation, with his Nepali counterpart K.B. Shahi at the Foreign Ministry this afternoon.

After more than 2 hours of talks, Iraqi Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Hammadi told the Rashtriya Samachar Samiti representative that he had a fruitful discussion with the Nepali foreign minister and other officials of the Foreign Ministry. He expresses satisfaction over the fact that bilateral relations between the two countries had made good progress. Dr Hammadi said: During the talks we both emphasized our will to enlarge our bilateral cooperation for the mutual benefit on the basis of noninterference in the internal affairs and the absolute support for sovereignty and independence. [Baghdad INA in Arabic at 1610 GMT on 12 December in a similar report adds: "The discussions of the two ministers dealt with bilateral relations, developments in the Palestinian issue and the situation on the eastern flank of the Arab homeland."]

Talks With Ministers

JN150838 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 15 Dec 80

[Text] Katmandu, 15 Dec (INA)--Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi met here last night with Nepalese monarch Birendra. Dr Hammandi arrived in the Nepalese capital last Friday on an official visit as part of his tour of southeast Asian countries.

Dr Hammadi also met last night with Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa and Minister of State for Finance Vadan Prashad Pant. An exclusive dispatch from Katmandu said that the talks dealt with bilateral relations and the situation on the eastern flank of the Arab homeland as a result of the Persian aggression against Iraq. Dr Hammadi had earlier visited the Philippines.

Talks With Foreign Ministers

JN151700 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Dec 80

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi has conveyed a written message from Leader-President Saddam Husayn to His Majesty King Birendra of Nepal.

Dr Hammadi met with the Nepalese foreign minister and reviewed bilateral relations and ways of promoting them. The two sides also reviewed the political situation in the Arab region, the continued Zionist occupation and aggression against the Arab nation and the violation of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights. Iraq and Nepal asserted their determination to continue their support for the Palestinian people's struggle, under the leadership of the PLO, to regain their full rights.

Dr Hammadi reviewed the development and background of the Iraqi-Iranian conflict, as well as its causes. He sensed the Nepalese side's appreciation and understanding of Iraq's readiness to cease firing and to enter into negotiations in order to reach an agreement that insures Iraq's full sovereignty over all its national soil and waters. The meeting, which was held in an atmosphere of understanding and amity, dealt with matters related to the nonaligned movement and to the forthcoming summit conference in Baghdad in 1982. The foreign minister also met separately with the finance, trade and industry ministers to review ways of promoting bilateral relations.

Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi arrived in Bangkok today on a 4-day visit to Thailand as part of a Southeast Asian tour. He has thus far visited the Philippines and Nepal. Dr Hammadi will hold talks with Thai officials on bilateral relations and current international issues.

Departure for Bangkok

BK151541 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 15 Dec 80

[Text] Iraqi Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Sa'dun Hammadi left Katmandu this morning after a 4-day visit to Nepal. He was seen off at the Tribhuvan International Airport by Foreign Minister K.B. Shahi.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq Dr Sa'dun Hammadi reaffirmed his country's support for Nepal's proposal that it be declared a zone of peace. According to a joint statement published in Katmandu today at the conclusion of 4-day official visit to Nepal, the minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Iraq also expressed the hope that it would contribute to the promotion of peace and stability in the region and in the world. The two sides paid (?serious) attention to the problems of the developing countries whose economic conditions are still deteriorating. According to the joint statement, the two foreign ministers stressed the necessity of taking effective measures to realize the establishment of a new international economic order on the basis of equality, justice and prosperity for all.

Report on Joint Statement

JN152006 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Dec 80

[Text] Iraq and Nepal have asserted their support for the Palestinian people's struggle against the Zionist enemy to secure their legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination and to the establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

This came in a joint statement issued today following Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi's visit to Nepal and the talks he held with Nepalese Government officials. The joint statement stressed the importance of the nonaligned movement's role on various current international issues. In this respect Iraq and Nepal underlined the need to bolster unity and solidarity among the nonaligned countries, so as to insure the success of the seventh nonaligned summit conference, to be held in Baghdad in 1982. Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi acquainted Nepalese Foreign Minister K.B. Shahi with developments in the Iraqi-Iranian conflict and with the just national and pan-Arab battle that Iraq is waging on the eastern flank of the Arab homeland to regain its usurped territory and waters, encroached upon by the Persian aggressors.

PRINCE CHARLES ARRIVES IN NEPAL, MEETS WITH KING

BK061519 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 6 Dec 80

[Excerpts] His majesty the king received in audience his royal highness the prince of Wales at the Narayanhiti Royal Palace this evening. His Royal Highness Prince Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah was also present on the occasion.

Earlier, his royal highness the prince of Wales was welcomed on arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah. Also present at the Tribhuvan International Airport to welcome His Royal Highness Prince Charles were the prime minister, the chairman of the Reshtriya Panchayat, chairman of the Raj Sabha Standing Committee, ministers and former prime ministers, heads of constitutional bodies, representatives of diplomatic missions and distinguished individuals.